

Fruits Basket™

© TOKYPOP



1

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

Volume 1



Natsuki Takaya



ISBN 1591826039

50999 >



9 781591 826033



Fruits Basket™

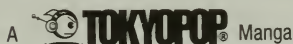
Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Chapter 1	7
Chapter 2	53
Chapter 3	83
Chapter 4	113
Chapter 5	143
Chapter 6	175
Zodiac History	208
Interview with the Voice of Tohru Honda	210

Translators - Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley
English Adaptation - Kelly Sue DeConnick & Jake Forbes
Copy Editor - Carol Fox
Retouch and Lettering - James Lee
Graphic Designer - Deron Bennett
Cover Designer - Aaron Suhr

Editor - Jake Forbes
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
Production Coordinator - Antonio DePietro
Production Manager - Jennifer Miller
Art Director - Matt Alford
Editorial Director - Jeremy Ross
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com



TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Fruits Basket Vol. 1

FRUITS BASKET by Natsuki Takaya
©1998 Natsuki Takaya. All rights reserved.
First published in Japan in 1999 by HAKUSENSHA, INC., Tokyo
English language translation rights in the United States of America
and Canada arranged with HAKUSENSHA, INC., Tokyo through
Tuttle-Mori Agency Inc., Tokyo

English text copyright ©2004 TOKYOPOP Inc.

ISBN: 1-59182-603-9

First TOKYOPOP® printing: February 2004

10 9 8 7 6 5 4

Printed in the USA



Fruits Basket

TM

Fruits Basket™

What exactly is *Fruits Basket*? It doesn't fit into the ordinary manga categories, but then, it's not an ordinary manga. Take two parts drama, one part comedy, add a spoonful of romance and a pinch of magic and you're partway there, but...something about *Fruits Basket* is special. What that special ingredient is, you'll have to discover for yourself. But to help you get started, here's a brief history of the series.

Natsuki Takaya's *Fruits Basket* (or "*Furuba*" as it's known to fans) began its life in the pages of *Hana to Yume* magazine, the shojo manga anthology from Japanese publisher Hakusensha that is also home to *Kare Kano* and *Angel Sanctuary*. This wasn't the first time Takaya-sensei worked with the publisher. Since the early '90s she has created a steady flow of series and short stories for Hakusensha's various anthologies. Her two biggest pre-*Fruits* series were *Geneimusu*, a dark fantasy romance, and *Tsubasa O Mitsu Mono* (*Those with Wings*), a story about an orphaned thief in a totalitarian future. When *Fruits Basket* premiered in 1999, it took Takaya-sensei to new levels of success.

2001 was a big year for *Furuba*. The series became a huge fan-favorite in Japan, jumping to the top of manga sales. Takaya-sensei won one of the manga world's highest recognitions, the prestigious Kodansha Manga Award (she won for Shojo manga the same year Ken Akamatsu won the shonen award for *Love Hina*!). And beginning that summer, Hakusensha and TV Tokyo teamed up to turn *Fruits Basket* into a 26 episode anime series.

An established hit in Japan, "*Furuba* fever" quickly spread throughout the American fan community. In 2002 the anime was released in English by FUNimation (see the interview with voice actress Laura Bailey at the back of the book!), but for several years the manga remained in limbo. We conducted a poll on TOKYOPOP.com in which fans could send in their wish list of manga series they'd like to see translated. *Fruits Basket* didn't just top the poll—it DOMINATED. Now, at long last, the English manga is here!

TOKYOPOP's presentation of *Fruits Basket* is published in the original right-to-left format with original sound effects retained to preserve the art. Also retained are "honorifics," the suffixes used with characters names. At the back of each book you'll find bonus features and exclusive interviews—look for some big surprises in the books to come! Future volumes will also include a special Reader Feedback section with letters, fan art and more. Please send us your pictures, questions, poetry, or whatever *Furuba* inspires you to send and we'll try to include it!

Fruits Basket Fan Mail
c/o TOKYOPOP
5900 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

We look forward to hearing from you, and we hope you'll enjoy the #1 most wanted manga in America!

Chapter 1

This is
where
the fun
begins...

Let's get
this show on
the road,
shall we?

WOW...

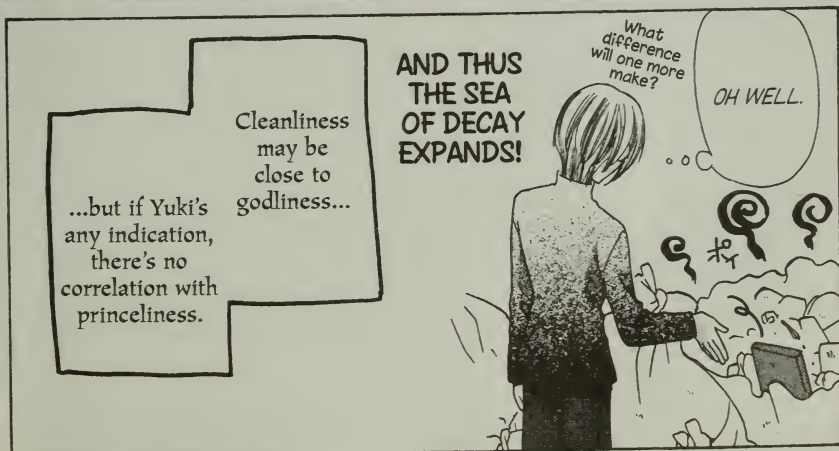
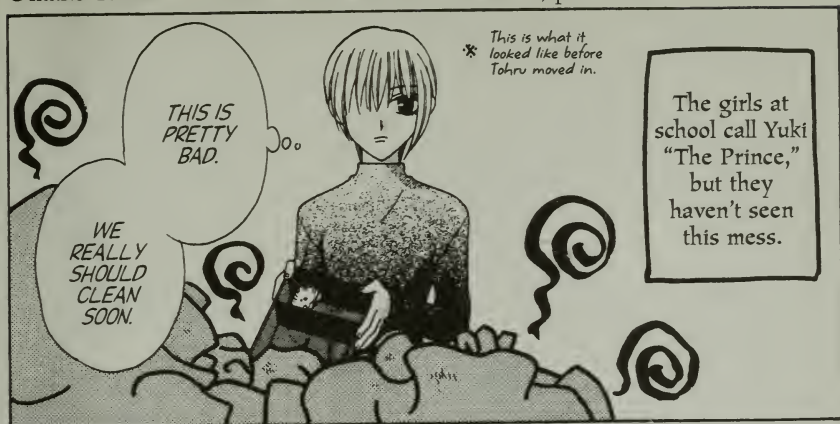
IT LOOKS
LIKE TODAY'S
GOING TO BE
ANOTHER
HOT ONE.

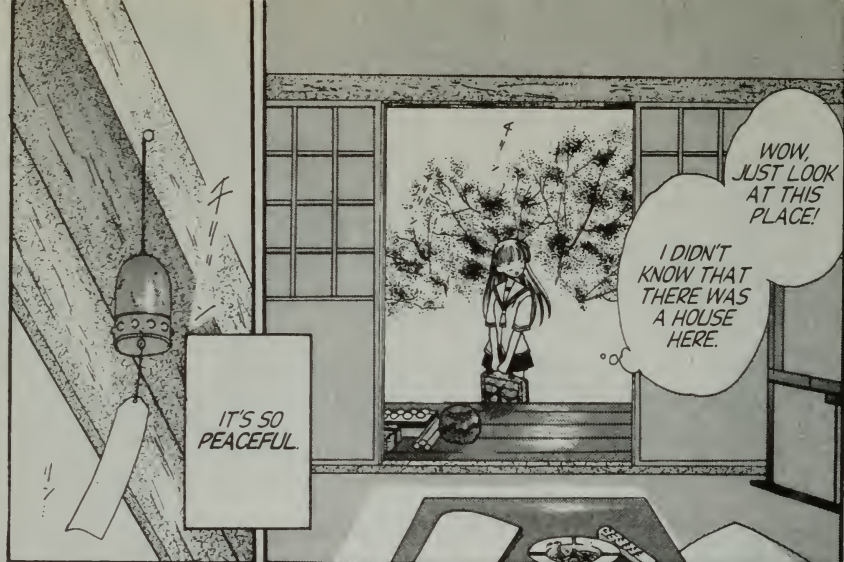
I'M NOT
FORGETTING
ANYTHING,
AM I?

OKAY, MOM,
YOU'RE IN
CHARGE WHILE
I'M GONE.

Grammar 1

Omake Theater 1: Life in the Sohma Household, pre- Tohru

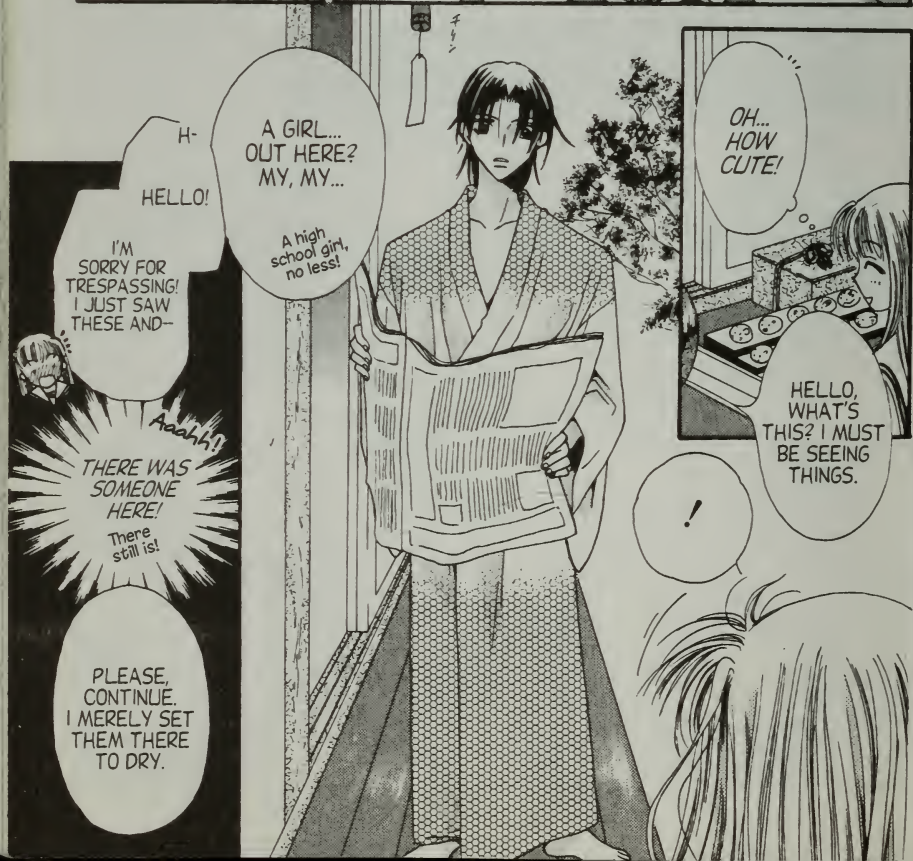




IT'S SO
PEACEFUL.

WOW,
JUST LOOK
AT THIS
PLACE!

I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT
THERE WAS
A HOUSE
HERE.



A GIRL...
OUT HERE?
MY, MY...

A high
school girl,
no less!

H-
HELLO!

I'M
SORRY FOR
TRESPASSING!
I JUST SAW
THESE AND-

There
still is!

PLEASE,
CONTINUE.
I MERELY SET
THEM THERE
TO DRY.

OH...
HOW
CUTE!

HELLO,
WHAT'S
THIS? I MUST
BE SEEING
THINGS.

!

AND NOW I
LIVE ALONE
IN THIS TENT.
IT'S A LONG
STORY.

THIS MAY,
MY MOTHER
PASSED AWAY.
SHE RAISED ME
BY HERSELF, SO
WHEN SHE WAS
GONE, SO WAS
MY HOME.

I HAVE SOME
TIME BEFORE
SCHOOL,
SO I THINK
I'LL EXPLORE
THE AREA.

I'M
OFF!

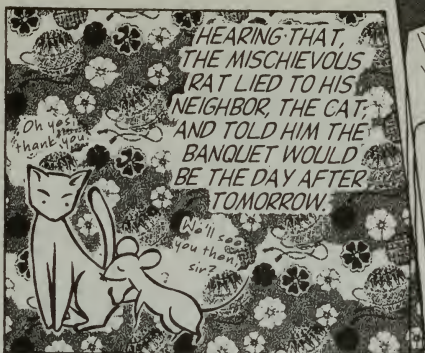
...BUT I MAKE
OUT OKAY,
NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS
IN LIFE...

I CAN'T
SAY MY
LIFE IS
EASY...

GOOD
MORNING!
MY NAME IS
TOHRU HONDA.

...I NEVER
LET IT GET
ME DOWN.
THAT'S ME--
EVER THE
OPTIMIST!

Her mother still
had long hair



HEARING THAT,
THE MISCHIEVOUS
RAT LIED TO HIS
NEIGHBOR, THE CAT,
AND TOLD HIM THE
BANQUET WOULD
BE THE DAY AFTER
TOMORROW.

Oh yes,
thank you

We'll see
you then,
sir?



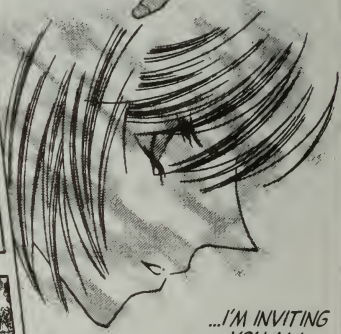
...GOD
TOLD THE
ANIMALS...

AFTER HIM
FOLLOWED
THE OX, THE
TIGER, AND ALL
THE REST, AND
TOGETHER THEY
FEASTED
UNTIL MORNING.

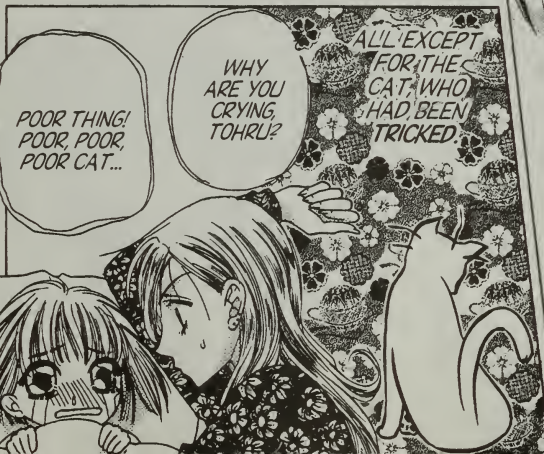
THE NEXT DAY,
THE RAT RODE
ON THE BACK OF
THE OX AND
NIMBLY LANDED
BEFORE THE
BANQUET HALL.



Welcome to
the banquet



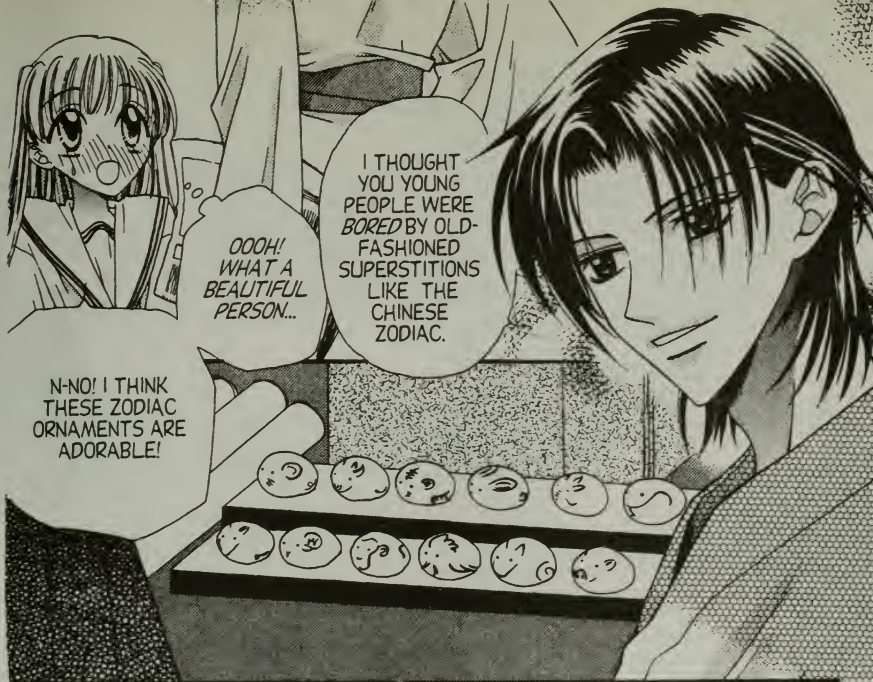
...I'M INVITING
YOU ALL
TO MY
BANQUET
TOMORROW.
DON'T BE
LATE!"



POOR THING!
POOR, POOR,
POOR CAT...

WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING,
TOHRLU?

ALL EXCEPT
FOR THE
CAT, WHO
HAD BEEN
TRICKED.



OOOH!
WHAT A
BEAUTIFUL
PERSON...

I THOUGHT
YOU YOUNG
PEOPLE WERE
BORED BY OLD-
FASHIONED
SUPERSTITIONS
LIKE THE
CHINESE
ZODIAC.

N-NO! I THINK
THESE ZODIAC
ORNAMENTS ARE
ADORABLE!

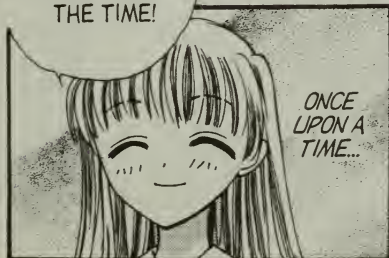


She's
quite
well-
informed!

CAT?
OH, YOU
MEAN...

THE
CAT FROM
THE ZODIAC
LEGEND?

THAT'S RIGHT!
MY MOTHER
TOLD ME THAT
STORY ALL
THE TIME!

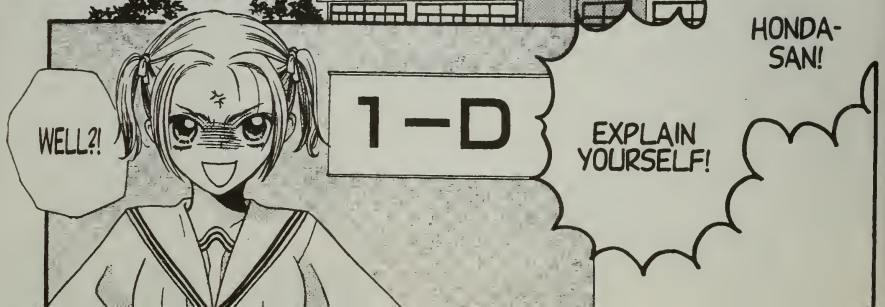
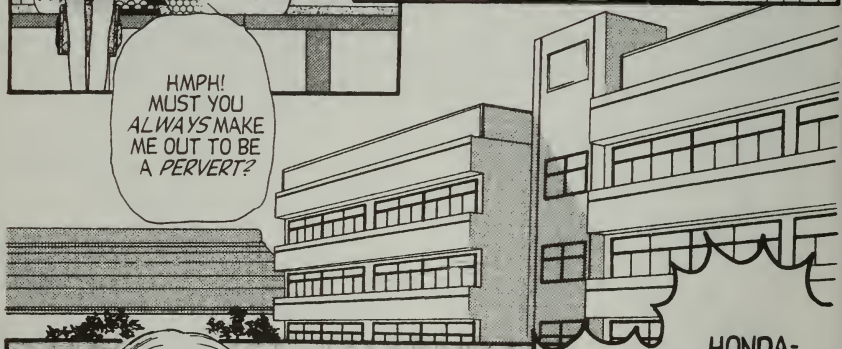


ONCE
UPON A
TIME...



BUT I
GUESS YOU
WOULDN'T
HAVE THE
CAT...

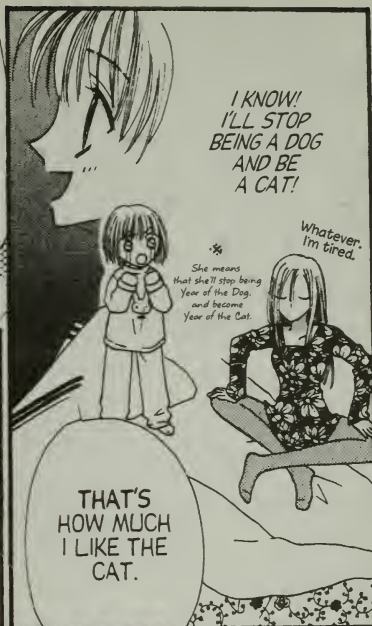
HMM...
AREN'T
THEY?
I LIKE
THEM,
TOO.





I WISH I COULD SEE THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE IF HE HEARD YOU SAY THAT.

IS THAT SO...?

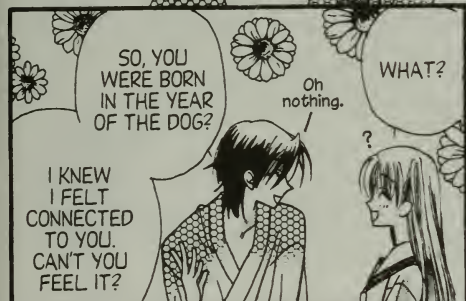


I KNOW!
I'LL STOP
BEING A DOG
AND BE
A CAT!

Whatever.
I'm tired.

*
She means
that she'll stop being
Year of the Dog,
and become
Year of the Cat.

THAT'S
HOW MUCH
I LIKE THE
CAT.

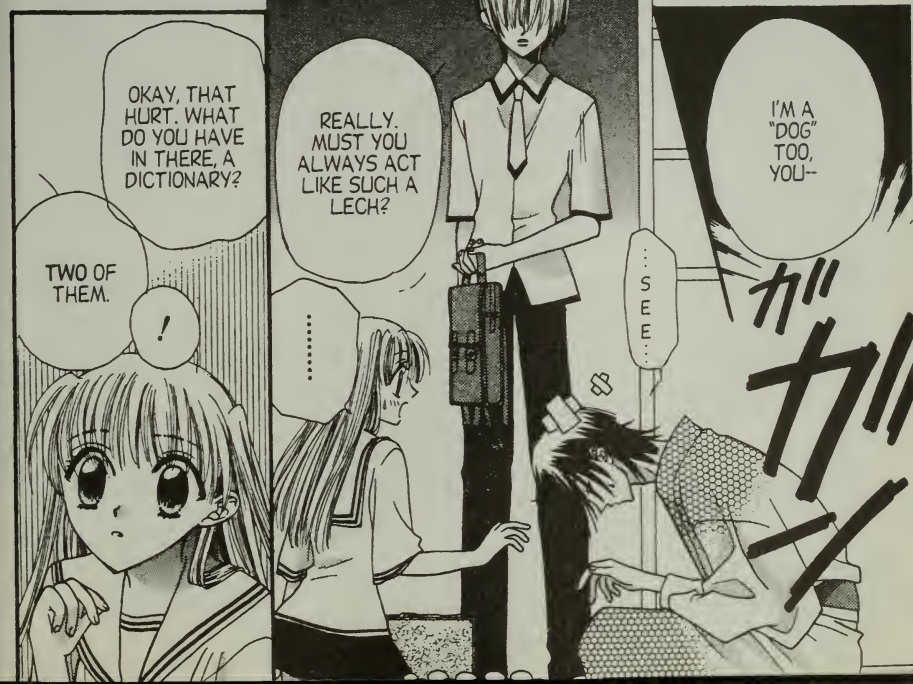


SO, YOU
WERE BORN
IN THE YEAR
OF THE DOG?

Oh
nothing.

WHAT?

I KNEW
I FELT
CONNECTED
TO YOU.
CAN'T YOU
FEEL IT?



OKAY, THAT
HURT. WHAT
DO YOU HAVE
IN THERE, A
DICTIONARY?

TWO OF
THEM.

REALLY.
MUST YOU
ALWAYS ACT
LIKE SUCH A
LECH?

...
S
E
E
...

I'M A
"DOG"
TOO,
YOU--

カ!!
カ!!
カ!!

WH-WHAT IS THIS?
THREATENING US WITH
YOUR GANGSTER
BUDDY, HUH? DON'T
THINK WE'RE THROUGH
WITH YOU JUST
BECAUSE OF
THIS YANKEE!

Ah!

LUO-CHAN,
HANA-
CHAN...

I thought
Yankee girls
were out of
fashion!

Well...
have
a good
morning!

コソコソ

I COULD



THEM WITH
ELECTRO-
POISON
WAVES...

TOHRU
TOLD YOU
IT WAS A
COINCIDENCE,
DIDN'T SHE?

STOP
FANTASIZING
AND GET
A LIFE.

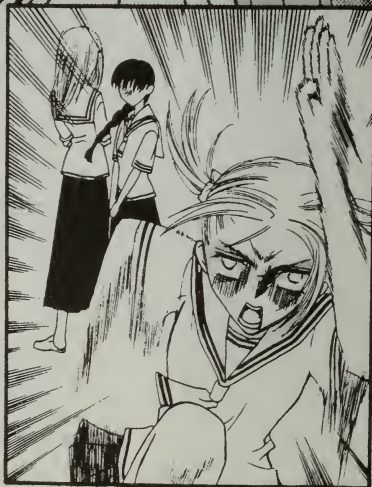
HANAJIMA,
DON'T ZAP
ANYONE.

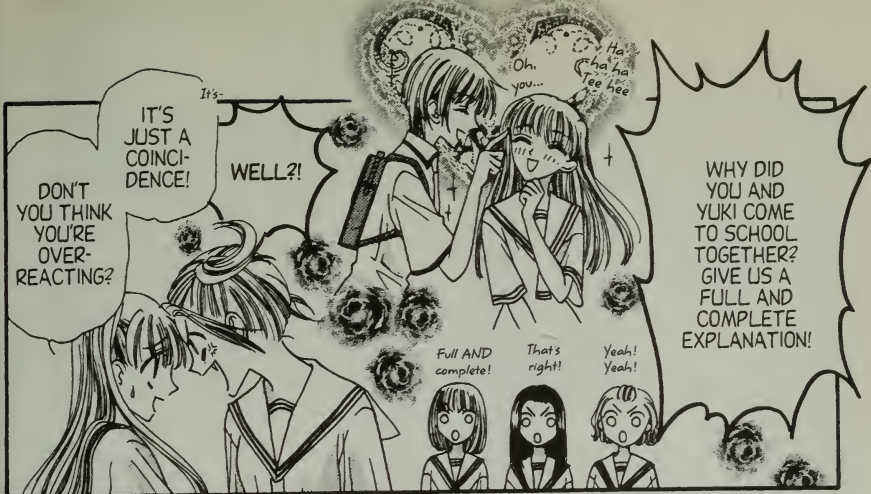
OH,
YOU
POOR
THING.

YOU
SAVED
ME.

There,
there.

YOU'RE
YUKI-
KUN'S
CLASS-
MATE?





DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE OVER-REACTING?

IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE!

WELL?!

Oh, you...
Ha ha ha Tee hee

WHY DID YOU AND YUKI COME TO SCHOOL TOGETHER? GIVE US A FULL AND COMPLETE EXPLANATION!

Full AND complete!

That's right!!

Yeah! Yeah!

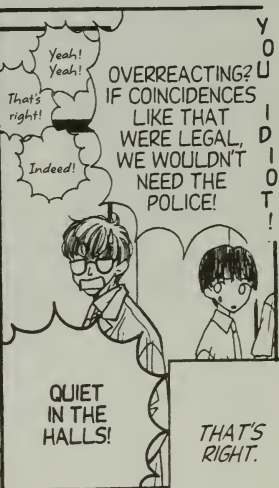
LOOK, YOU! JUST BECAUSE SOHMA-KUN IS SO KIND AS TO HANG OUT WITH YOU...

...IT'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO GET A SWELLED HEAD!

I'm not!

HEY!

...HE MAY JUST BE A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT, BUT HE'S ALREADY THE REIGNING "PRINCE" AT OUR SCHOOL.



QUIET IN THE HALLS!

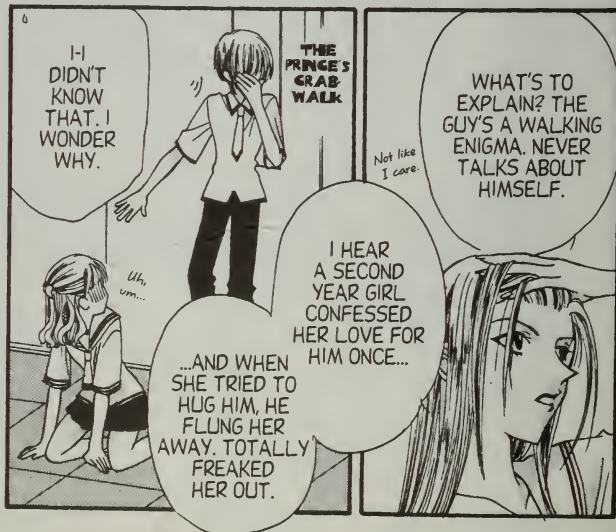
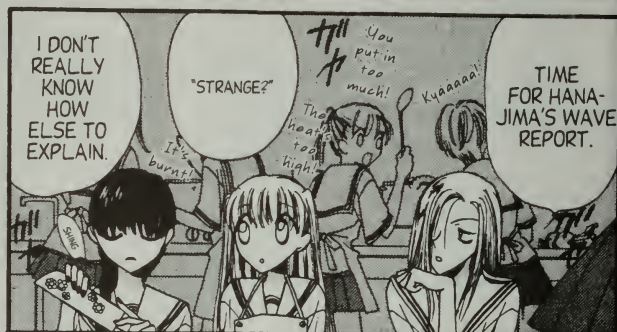
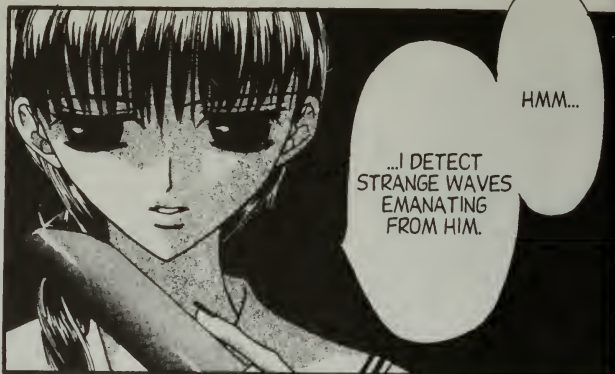
THAT'S RIGHT.

THE CHARMING YUKI SOHMA-KUN...

YOU IDIOT!

Fruits Basket
Number 1:

Hello!
Nice to meet
you, I'm Takaya.
To those of you
who have been
waiting--and
to those of you
who haven't been
waiting, too--
I am proud to
present Fruits
Basket Volume 1.
It's a new world,
different from
my last manga,
"Tsubasa," but I
think you'll find
similarities, too.
(Because I'm
drawing all the
people, basically.
Even if the details
are different, I
am still me!) But
if there were any
parts in "Tsubasa"
that were weird
or confusing to
you, I blame my
lack of sleep. Ah,
sleep. I remember
sleep. Maybe I
should try that
again one day...?
In the meantime,
please enjoy Fruits
Basket Vol. 1!





WELL
ANYWAY,
WE'RE GOING
TO BE LATE.

SINCE
YOU'RE
HERE, WHY
DON'T WE
WALK TO
SCHOOL
TOGETHER?

I WAS
REALLY
NERVOUS.



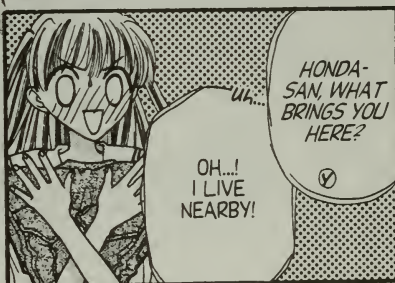
SOHMA-KUN
IS SO
HANDSOME...
I JUST
FROZE UP.

We
didn't
even
talk.



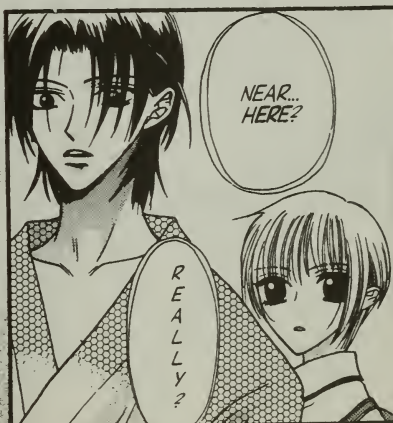
PLEASED
TO MEET YOU.
I'M TOHRU
HONDA.

I'M
SHIGURE
SOHMA,
YUKI-KUN'S
COUSIN.



HONDA-
SAN, WHAT
BRINGS YOU
HERE?

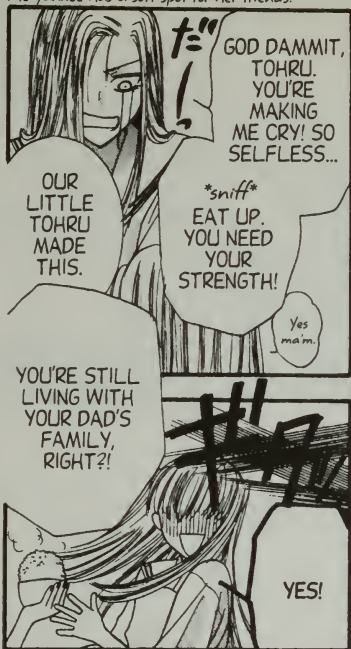
OH...!
I LIVE
NEARBY!



NEAR...
HERE?

R
E
A
L
L
Y
?

The Yankee has a soft spot for her friends.



GOD DAMMIT,
TOHRU.
YOU'RE
MAKING
ME CRY! SO
SELFLESS...

OUR
LITTLE
TOHRU
MADE
THIS.

sniff
EAT UP.
YOU NEED
YOUR
STRENGTH!

Yes
mum.

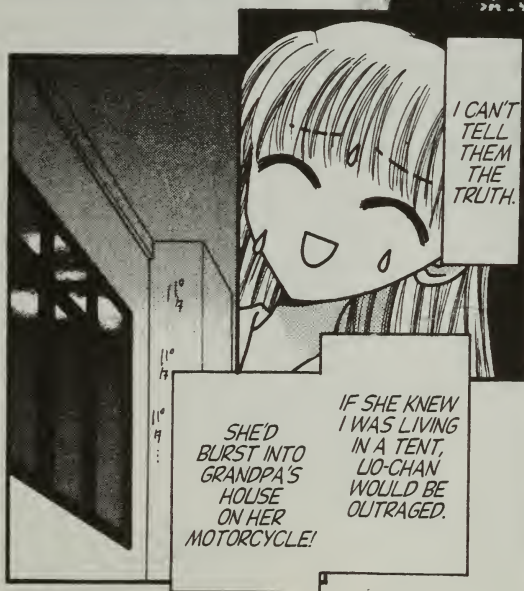
YOU'RE STILL
LIVING WITH
YOUR DAD'S
FAMILY,
RIGHT?!

YES!



AFTER
I GRADUATE,
I WANT TO
BE ABLE TO
PAY MY OWN
WAY.

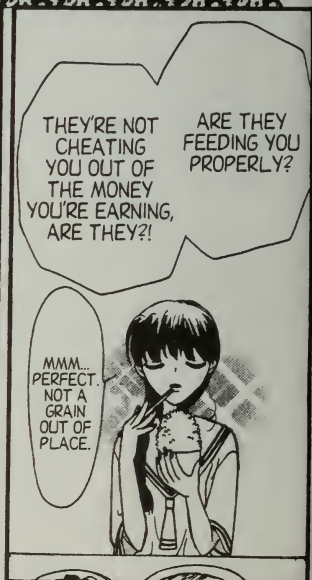
THAT'S WHY
I HAVE
TO START
SAVING
UP NOW!



I CAN'T
TELL
THEM
THE
TRUTH.

SHE'D
BURST INTO
GRANDPA'S
HOUSE
ON HER
MOTORCYCLE!

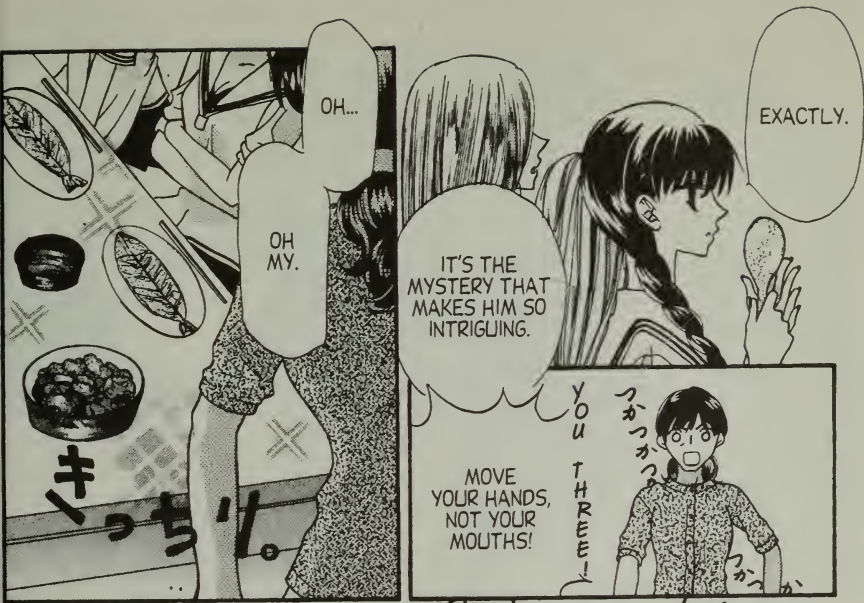
IF SHE KNEW
I WAS LIVING
IN A TENT,
LIO-CHAN
WOULD BE
OUTRAGED.



THEY'RE NOT
CHEATING
YOU OUT OF
THE MONEY
YOU'RE EARNING,
ARE THEY?!

ARE THEY
FEEDING YOU
PROPERLY?

MMM...
PERFECT.
NOT A
GRAIN
OUT OF
PLACE.



OH...

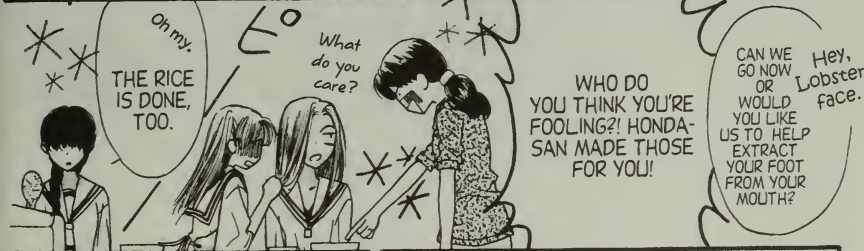
OH MY.

IT'S THE MYSTERY THAT MAKES HIM SO INTRIGUING.

EXACTLY.

MOVE YOUR HANDS, NOT YOUR MOUTHS!

YOU THREE!

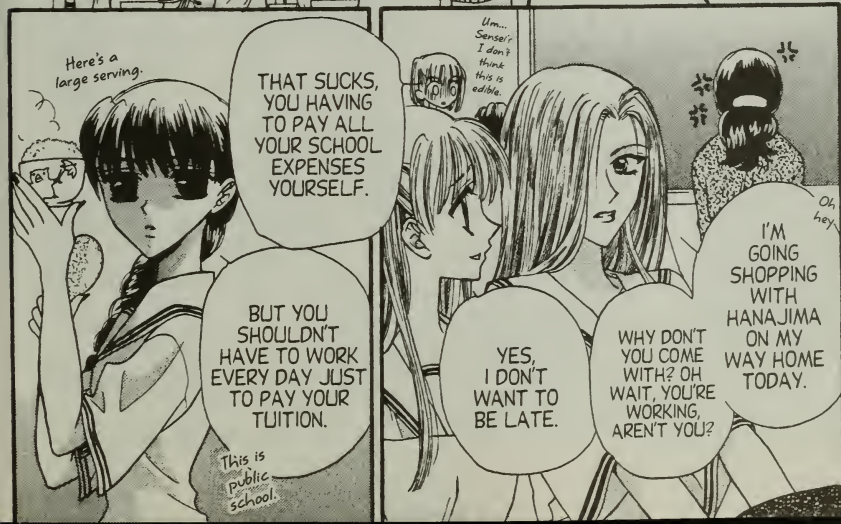


Oh my. THE RICE IS DONE, TOO.

What do you care?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING?! HONDA-SAN MADE THOSE FOR YOU!

CAN WE GO NOW OR WOULD YOU LIKE US TO HELP EXTRACT YOUR FOOT FROM YOUR MOUTH? Hey, Lobster face.



Here's a large serving.

THAT SUCKS, YOU HAVING TO PAY ALL YOUR SCHOOL EXPENSES YOURSELF.

BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK EVERY DAY JUST TO PAY YOUR TUITION.

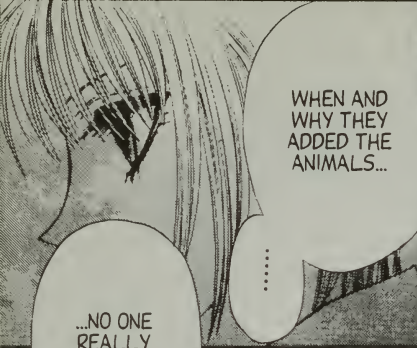
This is public school.

YES, I DON'T WANT TO BE LATE.

WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH? OH WAIT, YOU'RE WORKING, AREN'T YOU?

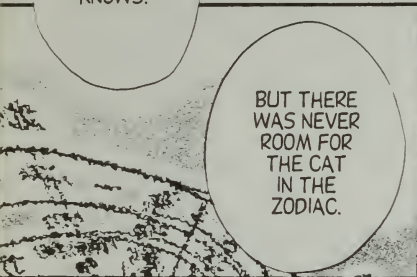
I'M GOING SHOPPING WITH HANAJIMA ON MY WAY HOME TODAY.

Um... Sensei, I don't think this is edible.

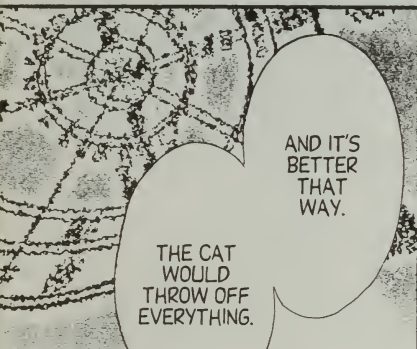


WHEN AND
WHY THEY
ADDED THE
ANIMALS...

...NO ONE
REALLY
KNOWS.



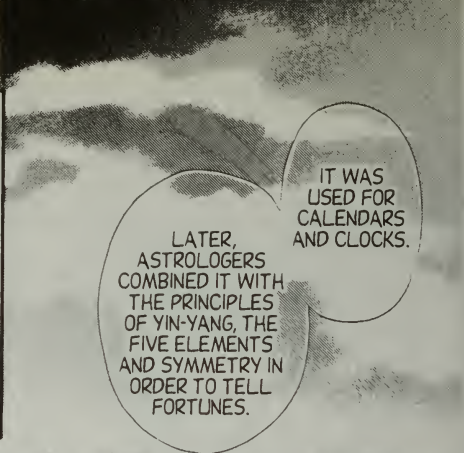
BUT THERE
WAS NEVER
ROOM FOR
THE CAT
IN THE
ZODIAC.



AND IT'S
BETTER
THAT
WAY.

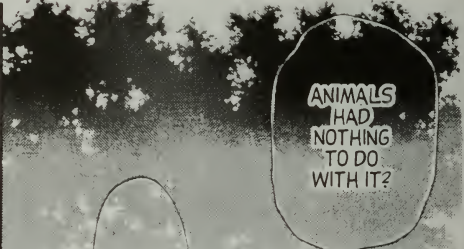
THE CAT
WOULD
THROW OFF
EVERYTHING.

THE CAT
REALLY IS
A FOOL.



IT WAS
USED FOR
CALENDARS
AND CLOCKS.

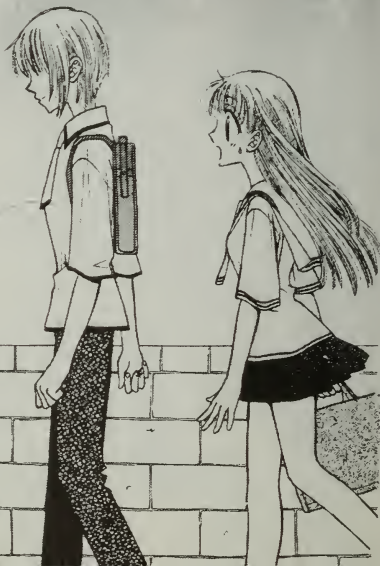
LATER,
ASTROLOGERS
COMBINED IT WITH
THE PRINCIPLES
OF YIN-YANG, THE
FIVE ELEMENTS
AND SYMMETRY IN
ORDER TO TELL
FORTUNES.



ANIMALS
HAD
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH IT?



NO.



OH, NO!
HE WAS
WONDERFUL.

WE
WERE JUST
LOOKING AT
HIS CHINESE
ZODIAC
ORNAMENTS.

DID I HEAR
CORRECTLY THAT
YOU WISHED YOU
WERE BORN YEAR
OF THE CAT?

IT'S I WHO
SHOULD
APOLOGIZE.
PLEASE
FORGIVE MY
COUSIN'S
RUDENESS.

SOHMA-
KUN!
I'M SORRY
ABOUT THIS
MORNING!

AH...!

HUH?

Bad
nature...?

DID
YOU
KNOW...

...THAT
THE CHINESE
ZODIAC IS
ACTUALLY A
TIMEKEEPING
SYSTEM OF
TENS AND
TWELVES?

THE
CAT
IS A
FOOL.

AND
HE HAS
A BAD
NATURE.

ER...I WAS
ECCENTRIC
WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE.

I SEE...



WELL....

...I'LL
SEE
YOU
TO-
MOR-
ROW.

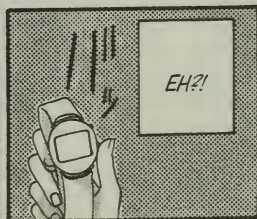
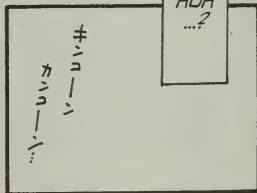
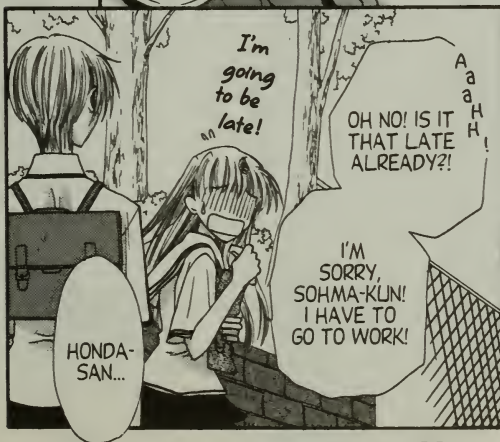
...I
NOTICED
THIS
MORNING...

"IT'S THE
MYSTERY
THAT MAKES
HIM SO
INTRIGUING."

"I THINK
I KNOW
WHAT SHE
MEANT."

...YOU
DON'T
LOOK
WELL.

IT'S BEEN
QUITE HOT
LATELY. YOU
SHOULDN'T
OVEREXERT
YOURSELF.



EVENTUALLY,
THE FAMILY
DECIDED I
SHOULD
STAY WITH
GRANDPA.

Mommy,
can I have
candy?

My
parents
are
staying
at my
place.

M
S
M

Our
house
is so
small.

THERE WERE
ARGUMENTS
ABOUT WHO
WOULD TAKE
ME IN. I'M SURE
THEY HAD THEIR
REASONS.

Quiet!
Calm
down.

She's too young
to get married.

SHE
WAS MY
CHEERFUL
PROTECTOR.

IT NEVER
OCCURRED
TO ME THAT
SHE COULD
DIE.

...I PROMISED
TO PAY MY
EXPENSES
MYSELF.

I'm
Tohru.

Thank
you,
Kyoko-
san.

I'm
TOHRU,
grandpa.
Dinner's
ready.

Kyoko-
san.

GRANDPA
LIVES
OFF A
PENSION,
SO...

I THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE NICE TO
REMODEL
THE HOUSE
BEFORE THEY
ARRIVE.

MY DAUGHTER'S
FAMILY IS COMING TO
LIVE WITH US.

Good,
good!

Yes,
yes!

BUT
FOUR
MONTHS
LATER...

THAT
WAS IN
MAY.

I COULDN'T
BEAR TO
TROUBLE
THEM FOR
HOWEVER
MANY
MONTHS
IT MAY
TAKE TO
REMODEL!

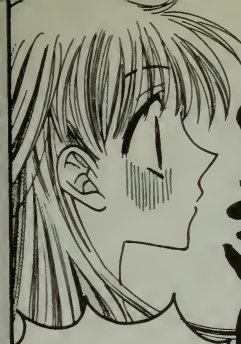
LIU-CHAN
LIVES IN
A SMALL
APARTMENT,
AND HANA-
CHAN IS IN
A FAMILY
OF FIVE.

OH!



DURING THE
REMODELING,
I'LL BE STAYING
AT THEIR PLACE.

I'M SORRY BUT
COULD YOU STAY
WITH A FRIEND
DURING THAT TIME?



MY HEAD
IS SPINNING JUST
FROM BEING
AROUND HIM.



DON'T...

GET A
SWELLED
HEAD!

DON'T TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF SOHMA-KUN'S
KINDNESS!



I WON'T!

"YOU SHOULDN'T
OVEREXERT
YOURSELF."



MY FATHER DIED
OF ILLNESS WHEN
I WAS THREE.

MOM WORKED
AND WORKED TO
SUPPORT US.

To-h-ru-
chaaaaaan.
Mama wants
sukiyaki.

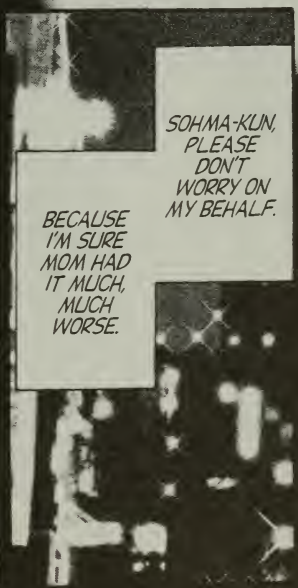


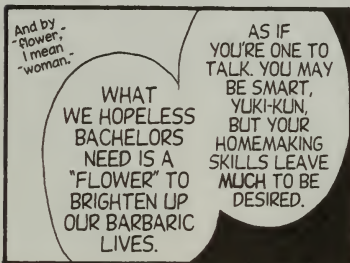
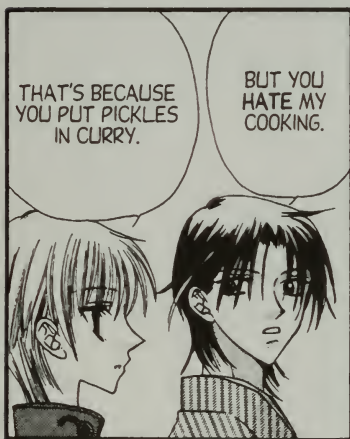
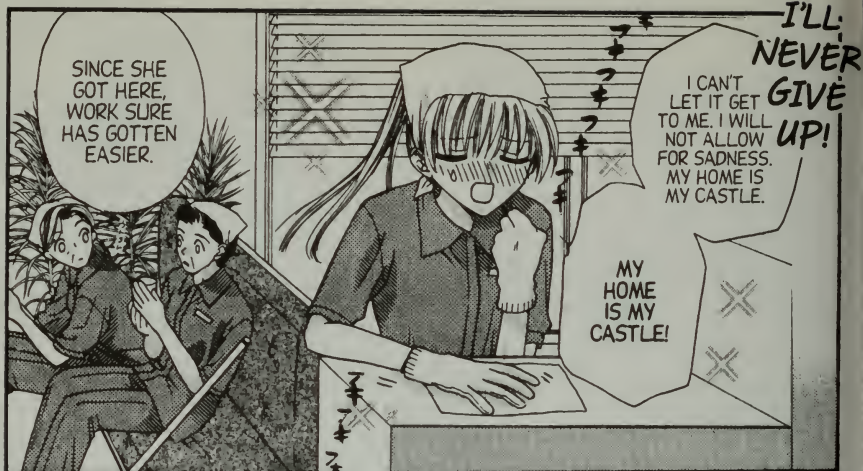
Okay.

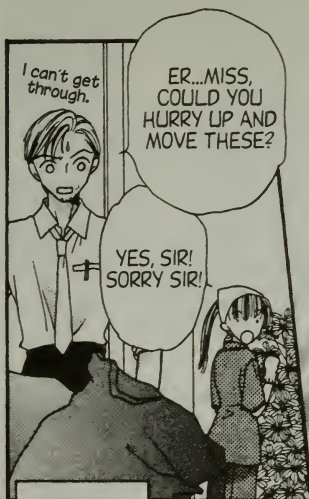
MOM WAS
ALWAYS
THERE
FOR ME.

SOHMA-KUN,
PLEASE
DON'T
WORRY ON
MY BEHALF.

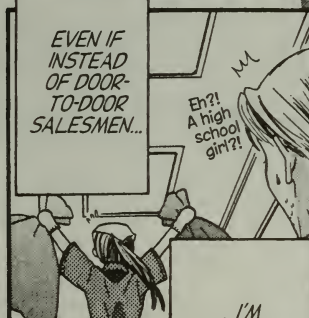
BECAUSE
I'M SURE
MOM HAD
IT MUCH,
MUCH
WORSE.





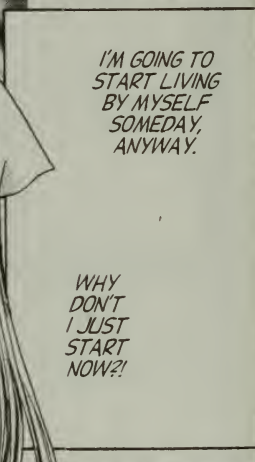
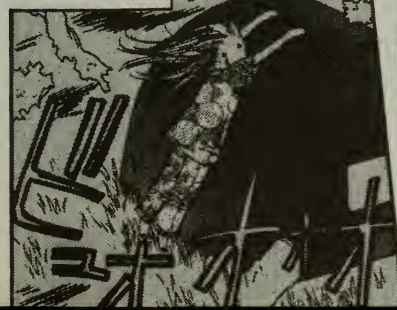


EVEN IF
IT MEANS HAVING
NO MONEY AND LIVING
IN A TENT THAT YOU
BOUGHT ON SALE!



EVEN IF A
SIMPLE STORM
THREATENS
TO BLOW MY
HOUSE AWAY,
LIKE THE
OTHER DAY!

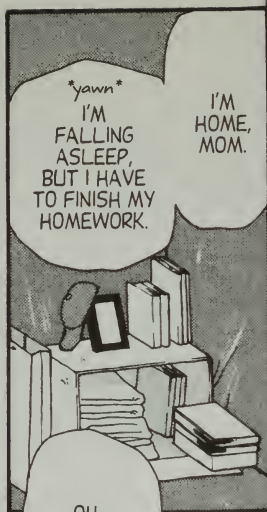
...I'M
VISITED BY
MOSQUITOES
AND SLUGS!



THAT'S
RIGHT! YOU MAKE
YOUR OWN LUCK.
IT'S ALL IN HOW
YOU THINK
ABOUT THINGS.

Number 2:

I get mail from people who started with "Furuba" asking me to introduce myself, so here I go:
Natsuki Takaya
(pen name) /
July 7th/Cancer/
Blood type A /
Tokyo (I moved) /
left-handed.
People say that left-handers are natural students—not me! I couldn't study. I didn't ever feel like it, and when I did study, my grades stayed the same anyway. I like games and music and I'm not that interested in talking about myself. It's way more fun to talk about my favorite things and favorite characters. Like, "Pikachu is adorable!" (Ha ha!)



yawn
I'M
FALLING
ASLEEP,
BUT I HAVE
TO FINISH MY
HOMEWORK.

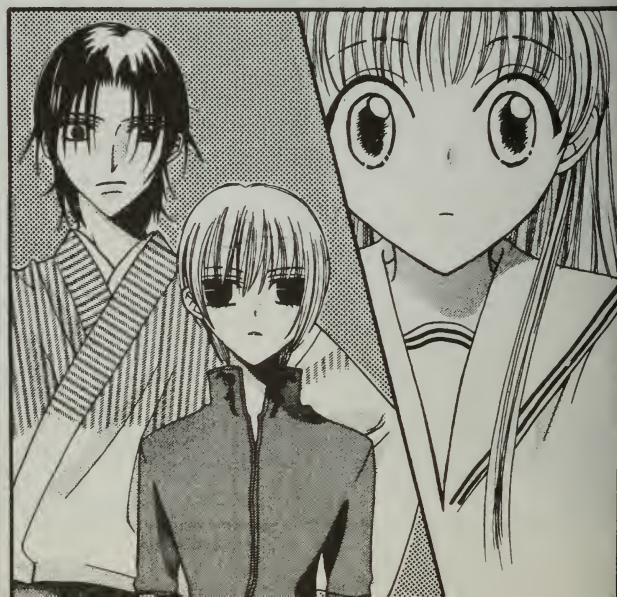
I'M
HOME,
MOM.

OH...
SO...
DIZZY.

MAYBE IF I
WASHED MY
FACE I'D--



SIGH SO
TIRED...





OF COURSE
YOU
REMEMBER
A GIRL'S
NAME.

YES, I
DO HAVE
A GIFT,
DON'T I?

But I do
like the
name
Tohru
for a
girl.



ISN'T
THAT
TOHRU-
KUN?



WELL,
AREN'T YOU
PROGRES-
SIVE,
SHIGURE.

WHAT?
WOULDN'T
YOU LIKE
TO HAVE
A WOMAN
AROUND
THE
HOUSE?

OH!

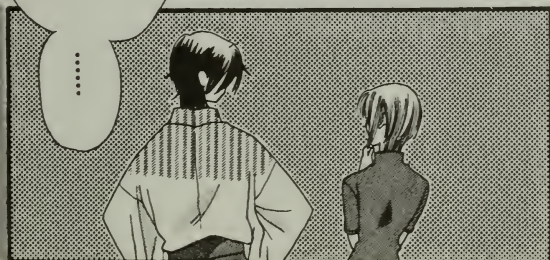
*Tohru is usually a boy's name.



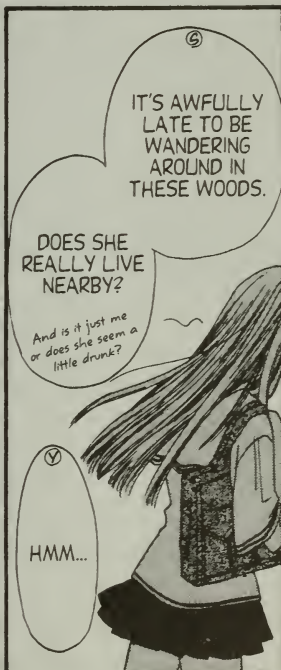
I HEARD
HER MOTHER
DIED.

MAYBE
SHE MOVED
HERE?

BUT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE.
WE'RE NOT
RENTING THIS
LAND TO ANYONE.



.....

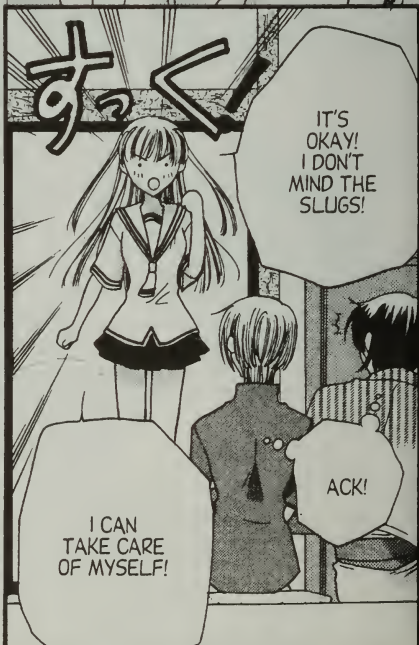
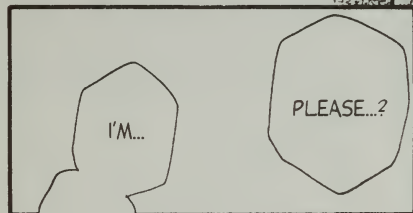
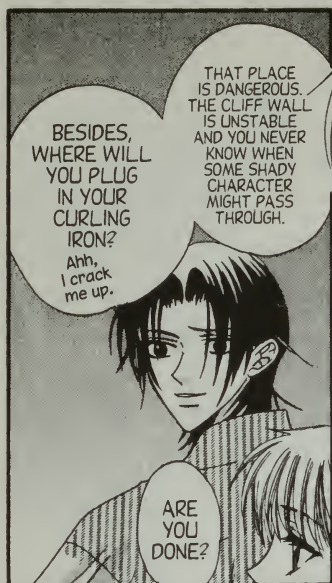


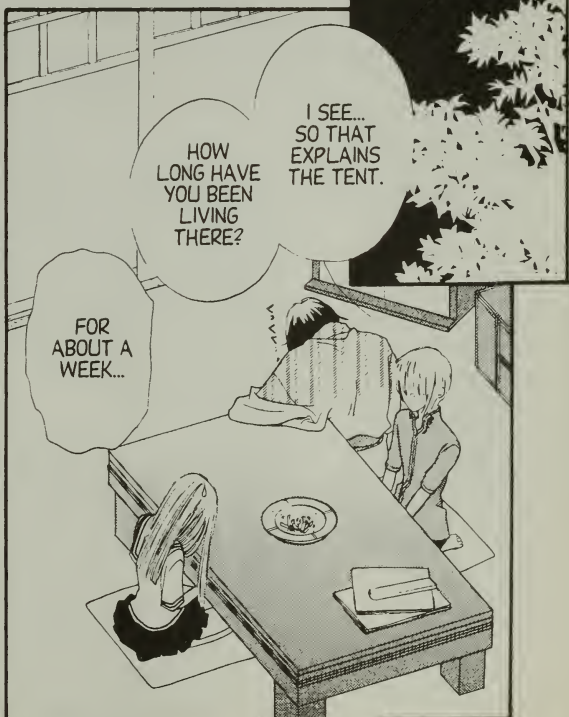
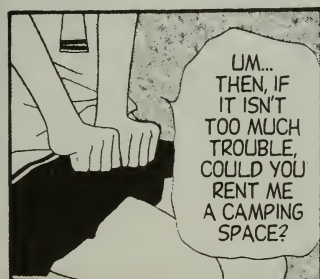
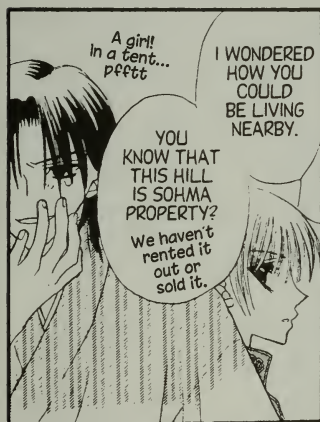
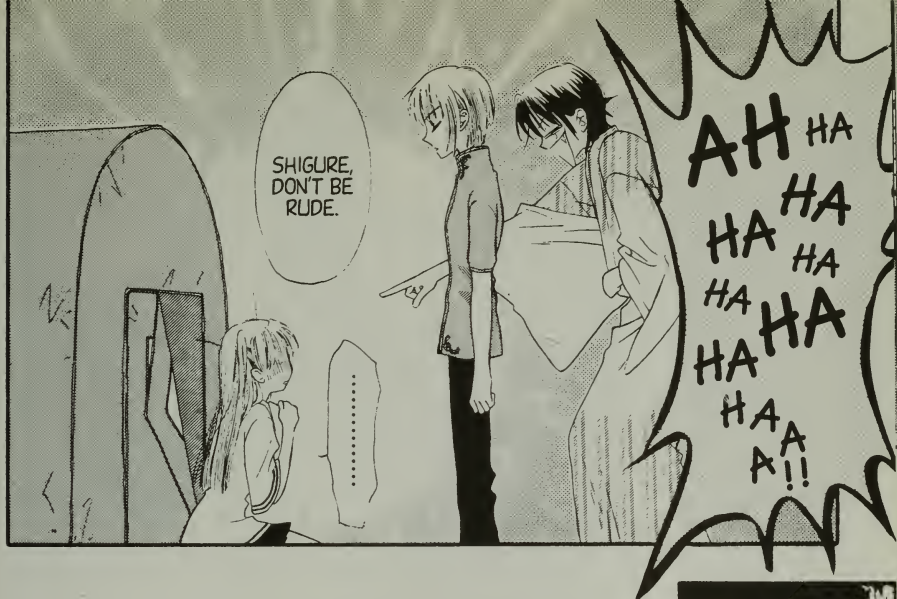
IT'S AWFULLY
LATE TO BE
WANDERING
AROUND IN
THESE WOODS.

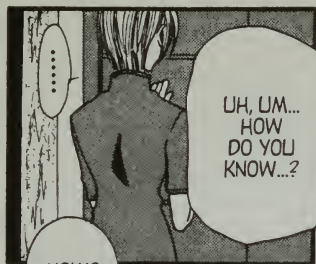
DOES SHE
REALLY LIVE
NEARBY?

And is it just me
or does she seem a
little drunk?

HMM...





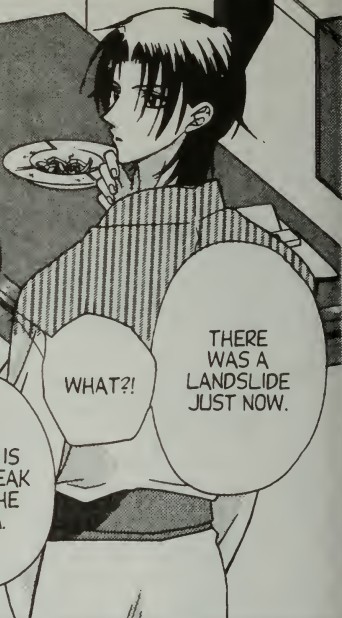


UH, UM...
HOW
DO YOU
KNOW...?

HOW?



CALL IT
"ANIMAL
INSTINCT."



WHAT?!

THERE
WAS A
LANDSLIDE
JUST NOW.

THE
GROUND IS
STILL WEAK
FROM THE
STORM.



THAT'S
THE
SPIRIT.

W-WHAT
IF IT WAS
NEAR MY
TENT?!

SERIOUSLY--
WHERE
WAS IT?

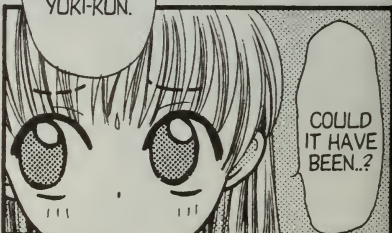
Err...just
kidding!

*AH HA HA HA



STOP MESSING
AROUND. WHERE
WAS THE
LANDSLIDE?

ALWAYS
SO SOLEMN,
YUKI-KUN.

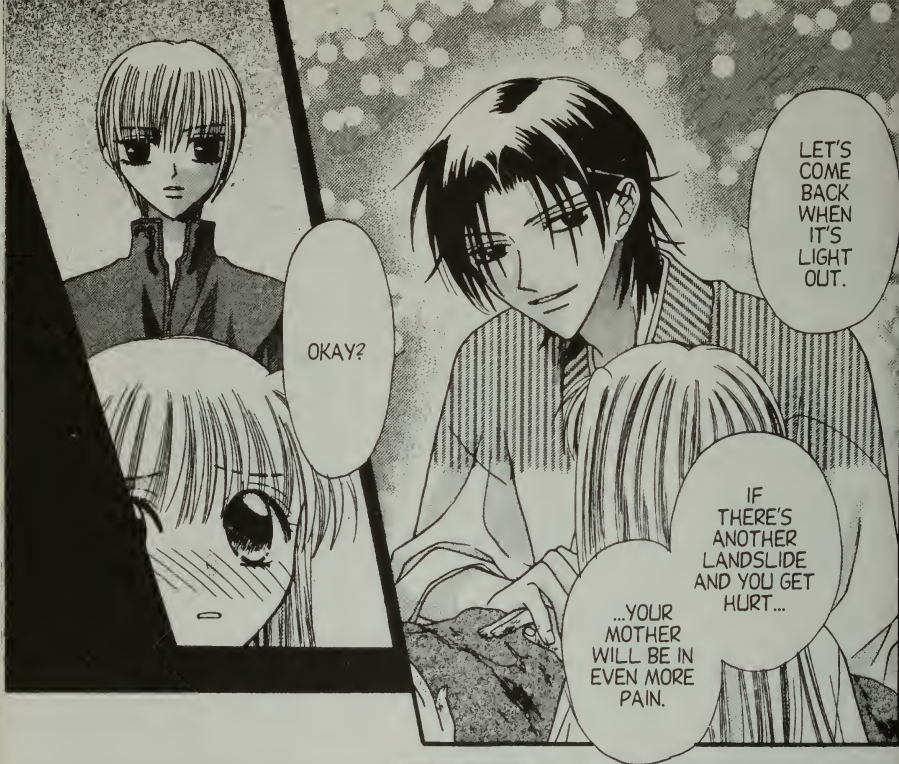


COULD
IT HAVE
BEEN...?



† Drawn with my right hand.





OKAY?

LET'S
COME
BACK
WHEN
IT'S
LIGHT
OUT.

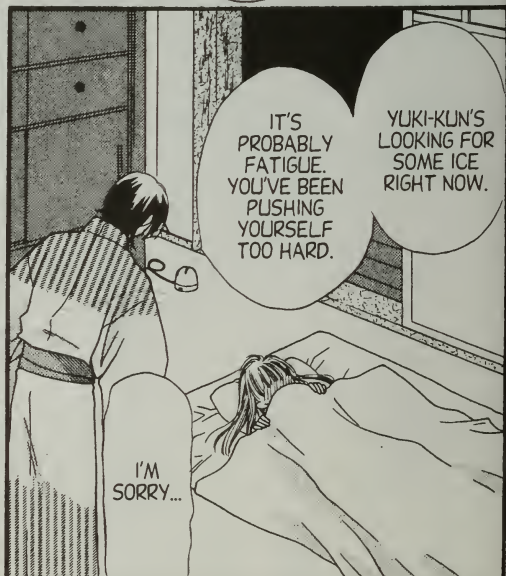
IF
THERE'S
ANOTHER
LANDSLIDE
AND YOU GET
HURT...

...YOUR
MOTHER
WILL BE IN
EVEN MORE
PAIN.



...
AGAIN.

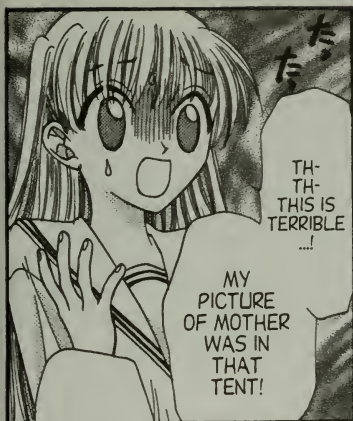
I LOST
MY HOME
AGAIN. MY
CASTLE...



IT'S
PROBABLY
FATIGUE.
YOU'VE BEEN
PUSHING
YOURSELF
TOO HARD.

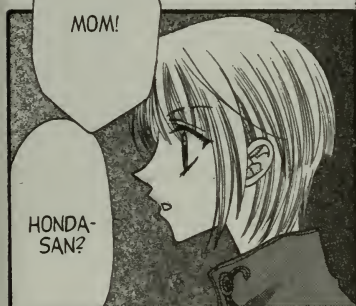
YUKI-KUN'S
LOOKING FOR
SOME ICE
RIGHT NOW.

I'M
SORRY...



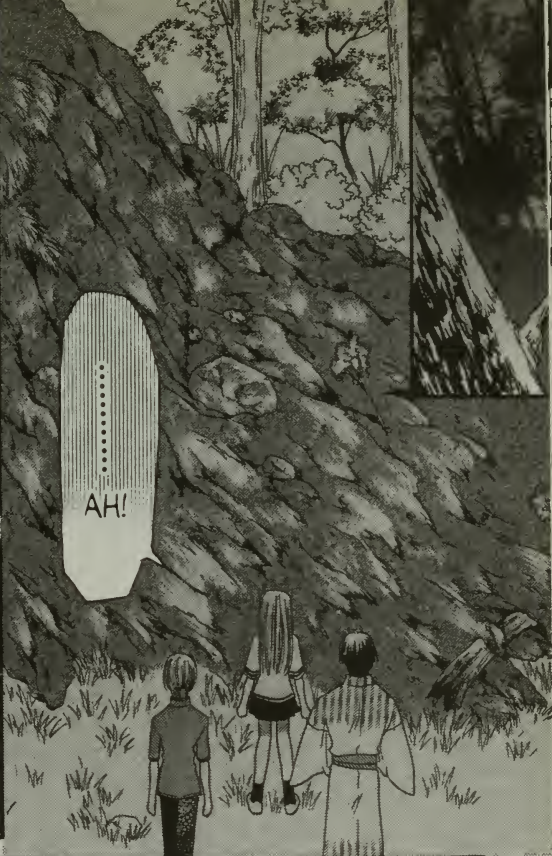
TH-
TH-
THIS IS
TERRIBLE
...!

MY
PICTURE
OF MOTHER
WAS IN
THAT
TENT!



MOM!

HONDA-
SAN?

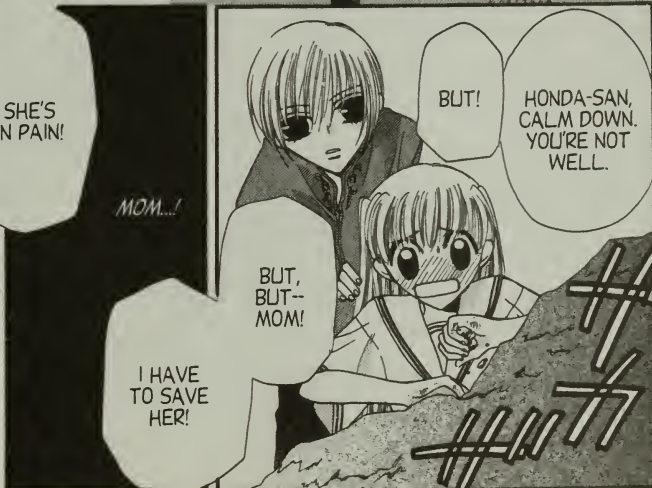


AH!



SHE'S
IN PAIN!

MOM....!



BUT!

HONDA-SAN,
CALM DOWN.
YOU'RE NOT
WELL.

BUT,
BUT--
MOM!

I HAVE
TO SAVE
HER!

I DIDN'T
SEE HER BACK
AS SHE LEFT
FOR WORK.

...I
FORGOT
TO TELL
HER TO
COME
HOME
SAFE.

SHE
WORKED
SO HARD,
AND...

"SO, I WANT
YOU, TO GO, TO
HIGH SCHOOL
AND HAVE
FUN FOR ME."

"I MISSED
OUT ON
A LOT OF
OPPORTUNITIES
BECAUSE
OF IT."

I failed all
the tests. And it was
lousy being stuck
with all the
grad-
lings?

...I CAN
STILL
MAKE IT
UP TO
MY MOM.

BUT IT'S NOT
TOO LATE!
EVEN WITH
MY GRADES
AND MY HOUSE
BEING BLOWN
AWAY...

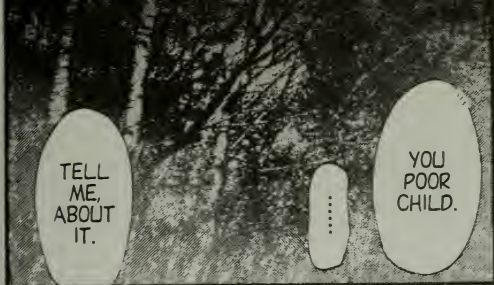
...BUT
I CAN
LIVE THE
LIFE SHE
WANTED
FOR ME.

...SO I'LL
GRADUATE...
FOR HER.

SHE WANTED
ME TO FINISH
HIGH SCHOOL....

I
CAN'T
BRING
HER
BACK...

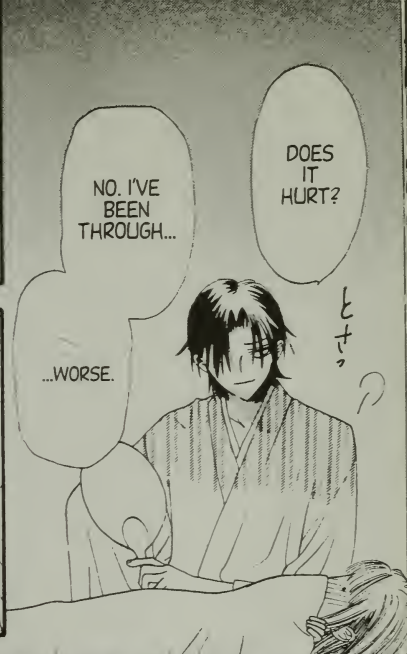
SHE
WANTED
A BETTER
LIFE FOR
ME.



TELL
ME,
ABOUT
IT.

...

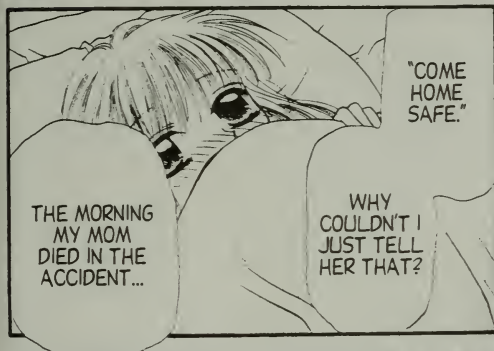
YOU
POOR
CHILD.



NO. I'VE
BEEN
THROUGH...

DOES
IT
HURT?

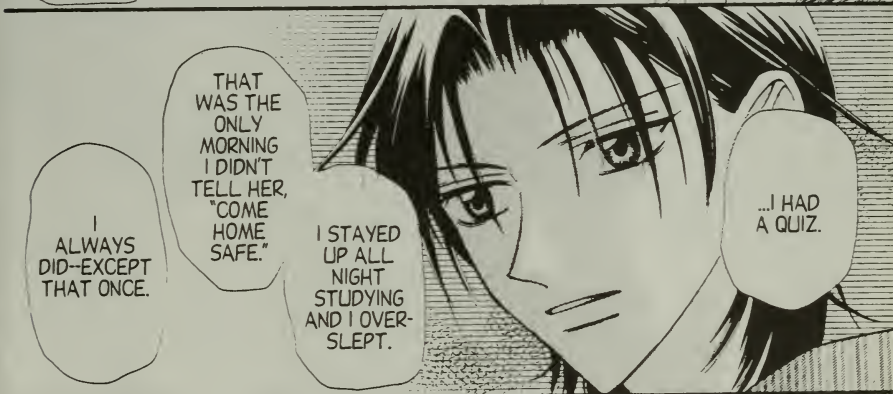
...WORSE.



"COME
HOME
SAFE."

THE MORNING
MY MOM
DIED IN THE
ACCIDENT...

WHY
COULDN'T I
JUST TELL
HER THAT?

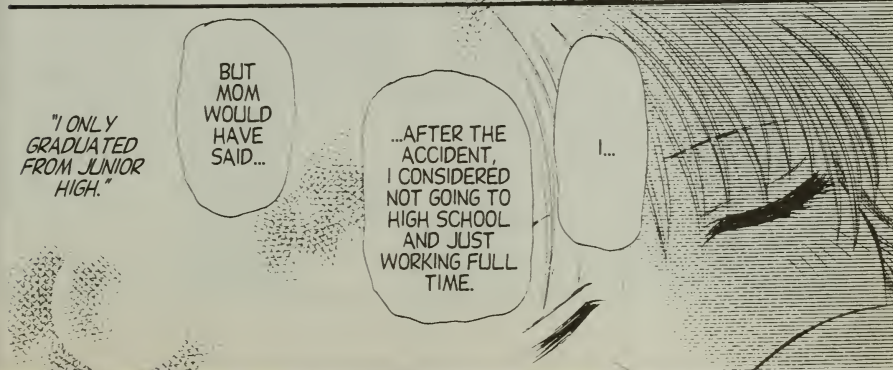


I
ALWAYS
DID-EXCEPT
THAT ONCE.

THAT
WAS THE
ONLY
MORNING
I DIDN'T
TELL HER,
"COME
HOME
SAFE."

I STAYED
UP ALL
NIGHT
STUDYING
AND I OVER-
SLEPT.

...I HAD
A QUIZ.



"I ONLY
GRADUATED
FROM JUNIOR
HIGH."

BUT
MOM
WOULD
HAVE
SAID...

...AFTER THE
ACCIDENT,
I CONSIDERED
NOT GOING TO
HIGH SCHOOL
AND JUST
WORKING FULL
TIME.

I...



...BUT YOUR SPIRIT IS DIFFERENT FROM TOHRU-KUN'S. THERE'S REALLY NO COMPARISON.

WELL, YOU ARE SPOILED...

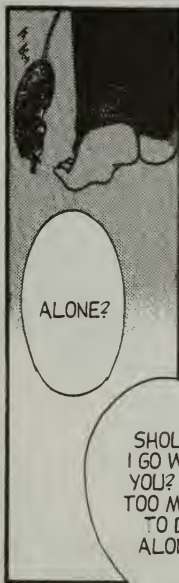
...I'M ACTING LIKE A SPOILED BRAT.

IT'S PATHETIC.



AND IF YOU THINK THAT'S INCREDIBLE...

...THEN YOU REALLY DON'T APPRECIATE TOHRU-KUN.



ALONE?

SHOULD I GO WITH YOU? IT'S TOO MUCH TO DO ALONE.



CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF HER? I'M GOING OUT.

WHERE? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO GO DIG UP HER THINGS?

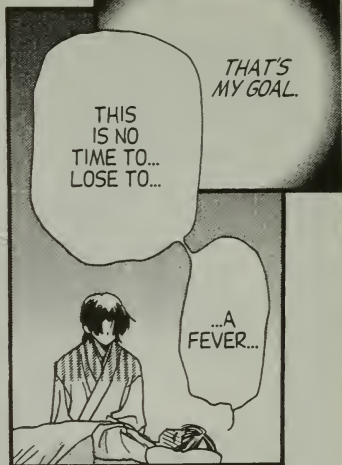


YOU'RE RIGHT.



WERE
YOU
LISTENING
?

IS SHE
ASLEEP?



THIS
IS NO
TIME TO...
LOSE TO...

...A
FEVER...

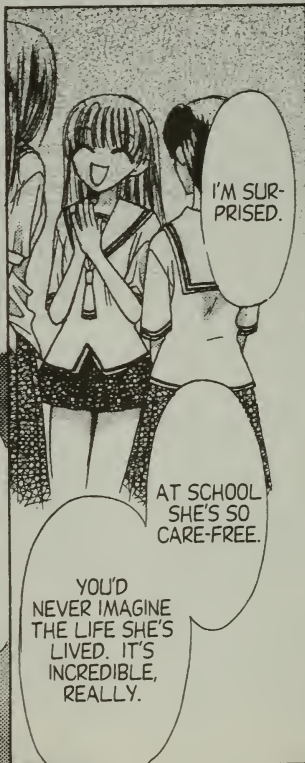
THAT'S
MY GOAL.



I'VE
ALWAYS
WANTED...

...TO RUN
AWAY FROM
THE SOHMA
FAMILY.

INCREDIBLE?
HOW?



I'M SUR-
PRISED.

AT SCHOOL
SHE'S SO
CARE-FREE.

YOU'D
NEVER IMAGINE
THE LIFE SHE'S
LIVED. IT'S
INCREDIBLE,
REALLY.

I COULD
HAVE GONE
TO THE
WOODS,

BUT
I ONLY
HAD THE
COURAGE
TO RUN AS
FAR AS
ANOTHER
SOHMA
HOUSE.

I COULD
HAVE LIVED
IN A TENT LIKE
HONDA-SAN...

"...YOU'LL
CATCH UP."

"YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
PUSH
YOURSELF
SO HARD."

"YOU
HAVE A
FEVER
AGAIN."

"SOMEDAY..."

BUT...

...THIS TIME,
IF I DON'T
PUSH MYSELF
A LITTLE...

...I'LL
DIE
ALONE.

"TOHRU,
YOU MUST
ALWAYS BE
YOURSELF."

"...AND DO
THINGS AT
YOUR OWN
PACE."



I NEVER
SAID...

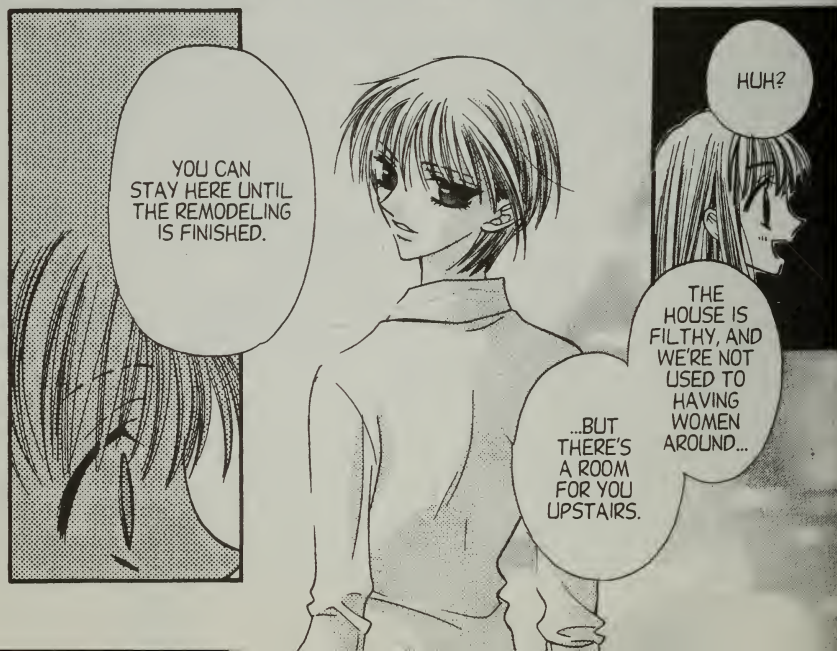
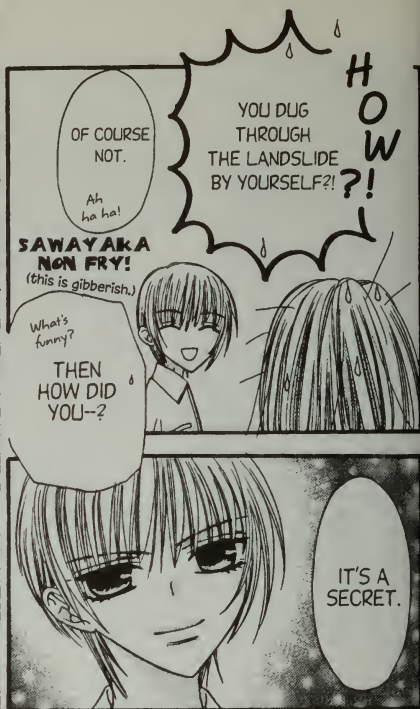
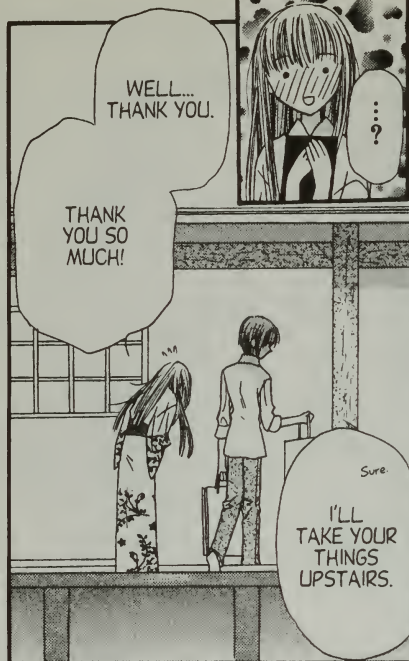


...I WAS
GOING
ALONE.

...TOHRLI.



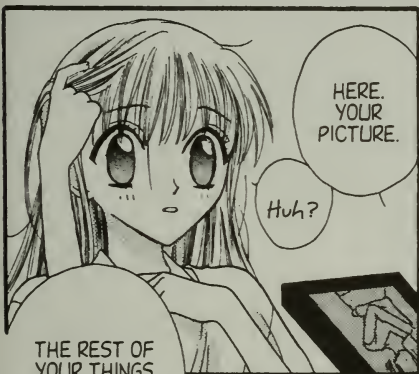
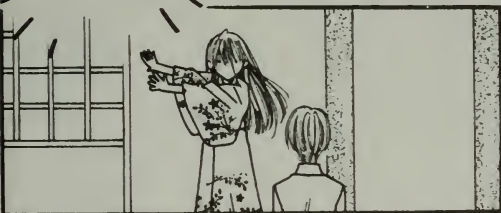
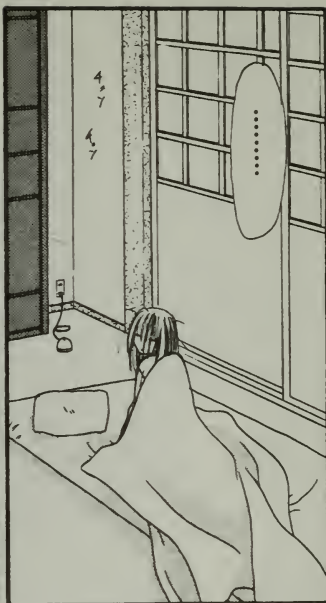
BE
CAREFUL.



OH NO!

HOW COULD
I FALL
ASLEEP?!

I HAVE
TO DIG MOM
OUT!



HERE..
YOUR
PICTURE.

Huh?

THE REST OF
YOUR THINGS
SHOULD BE IN
THESE BAGS.

COULD
YOU MAKE
SURE?

EH?!



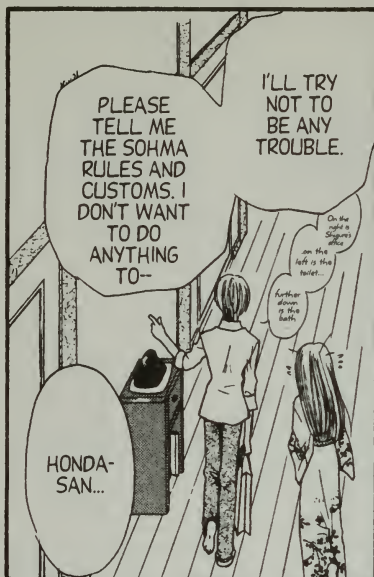
GOOD
MORNING.

HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?

Bedhead!

So--
muh--
goo--

*Sohma-kun, um,
good morning.



PLEASE
TELL ME
THE SOHMA
RULES AND
CUSTOMS. I
DON'T WANT
TO DO
ANYTHING
TO--

I'LL TRY
NOT TO
BE ANY
TROUBLE.

On the
right is
Sohma's
office
on the
left is the
bath...

Further
down is
the bath

HONDA-
SAN...



WE'RE
THE ONES
ASKING YOU
TO STAY.

BUT!

YOU'RE
NOT A BOTHER.
IF WE DIDN'T
WANT YOU
HERE, WE
WOULDN'T
ASK.

BESIDES,
WHERE ELSE
ARE YOU GOING
TO GO?



YOU'LL
FIT
RIGHT
IN.

IT'S
OKAY.
JUST BE
YOURSELF...

...AND DO
THINGS AT
YOUR OWN
PACE.



Boo!

TOHRU-KUN,
DO YOU
LIKE
HOUSE-
WORK?

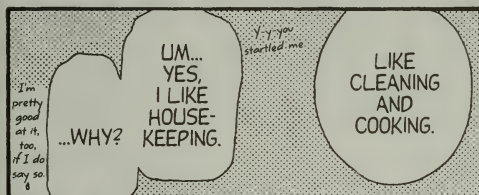
Eeep!



NO!
I COULDN'T
POSSIBLY-!

OH, DON'T
WORRY.
THERE'S A
LOCK ON
THE DOOR.

TH-THAT'S
NOT IT!
I MEAN...



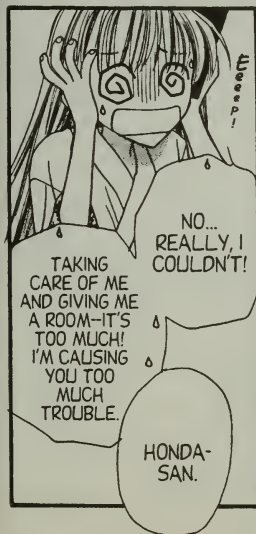
I'm
pretty
good
at it,
too,
if I do
say so.

...WHY?

UM...
YES,
I LIKE
HOUSE-
KEEPING.

Y-y-you
startled me

LIKE
CLEANING
AND
COOKING.



There a...

TAKING
CARE OF ME
AND GIVING ME
A ROOM-IT'S
TOO MUCH!
I'M CAUSING
YOU TOO
MUCH
TROUBLE.

NO...
REALLY, I
COULDN'T!

HONDA-
SAN.

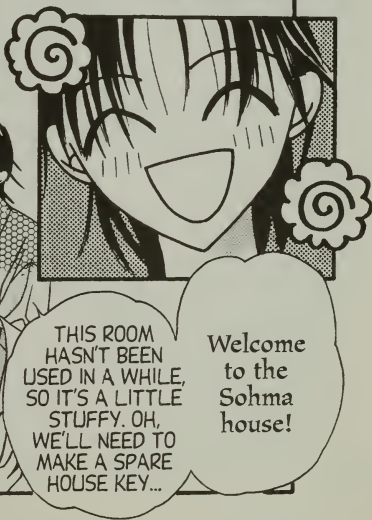


YUKI-KUN,
FIND HER
SOMETHING
TO WEAR.

I'll help
carry your
things.
Er, the
little
ones.

Her
clothes
are a
mess.

A-h...



THIS ROOM
HASN'T BEEN
USED IN A WHILE,
SO IT'S A LITTLE
STUFFY. OH,
WE'LL NEED TO
MAKE A SPARE
HOUSE KEY...

Welcome
to the
Sohma
house!



ARE
YOU SURE
IT'S OKAY FOR
HER TO STAY
WITH US?
SHE IS A
GIRL.

YOU
REALIZE I
WAS KIDDING
ABOUT THE
"FLOWER."

YOU WERE
JUMPING
FOR JOY
JUST A
MINUTE
AGO.

SOME-
HOW...

DON'T
WORRY.

EVERYTHING
WILL BE
FINE, AS
LONG AS SHE
DOESN'T HUG
ANYONE.

...IT ALL
HAPPENED
SO FAST.

"TOHRU,
YOU MUST
ALWAYS
BE YOUR-
SELF."

SOHMA-KUN...

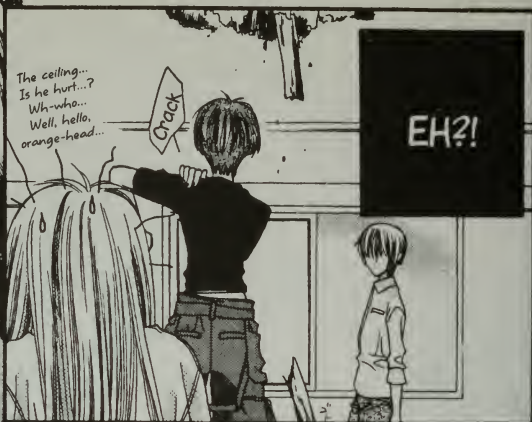
...REALLY IS
A MYSTERY.

I'll
do my best!
I am at the
mercy of your
hospitality.

Like I
said...



YOU'RE
TOO
WEAK.

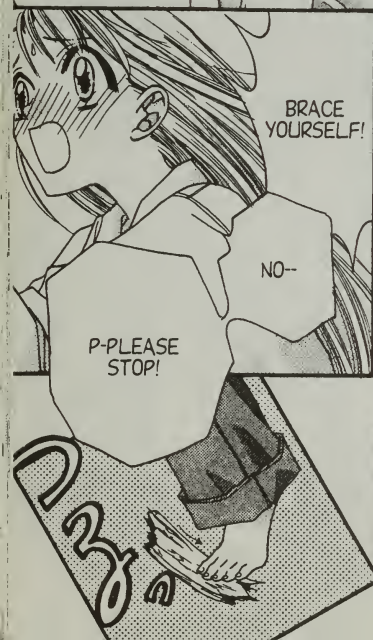


Confused



WHEN ARE
YOU GOING
TO LEARN?

SERIOUSLY...
MUST
YOU BREAK
SOMETHING
EVERYTIME
YOU COME
HOME?



BRACE
YOURSELF!

NO--

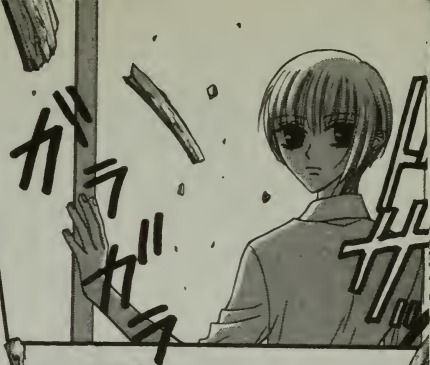
P-PLEASE
STOP!



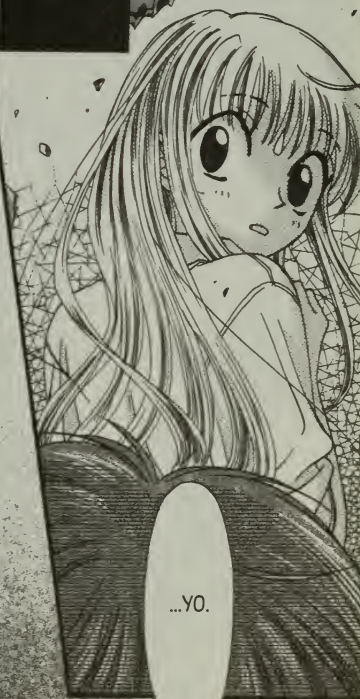
...RAT-
BOY?

ARE YOU
READY
FOR ME
TO BREAK
YOUR
NECK...

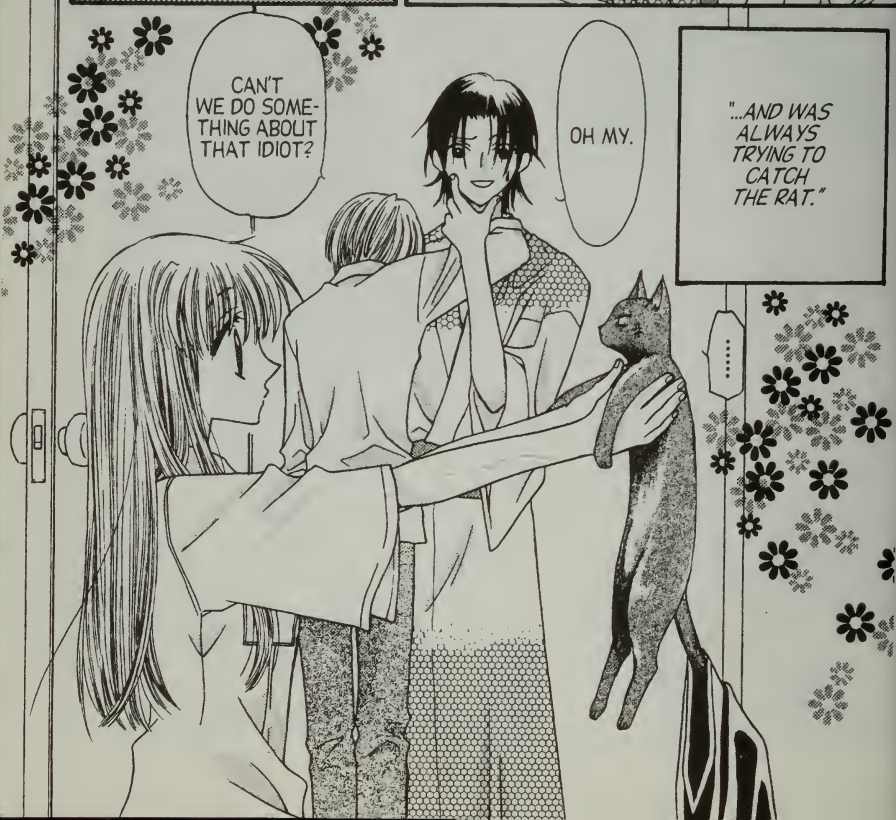
Crack



EH?



...YO.





AH!

AH?!

HYAAAAH!

AH!

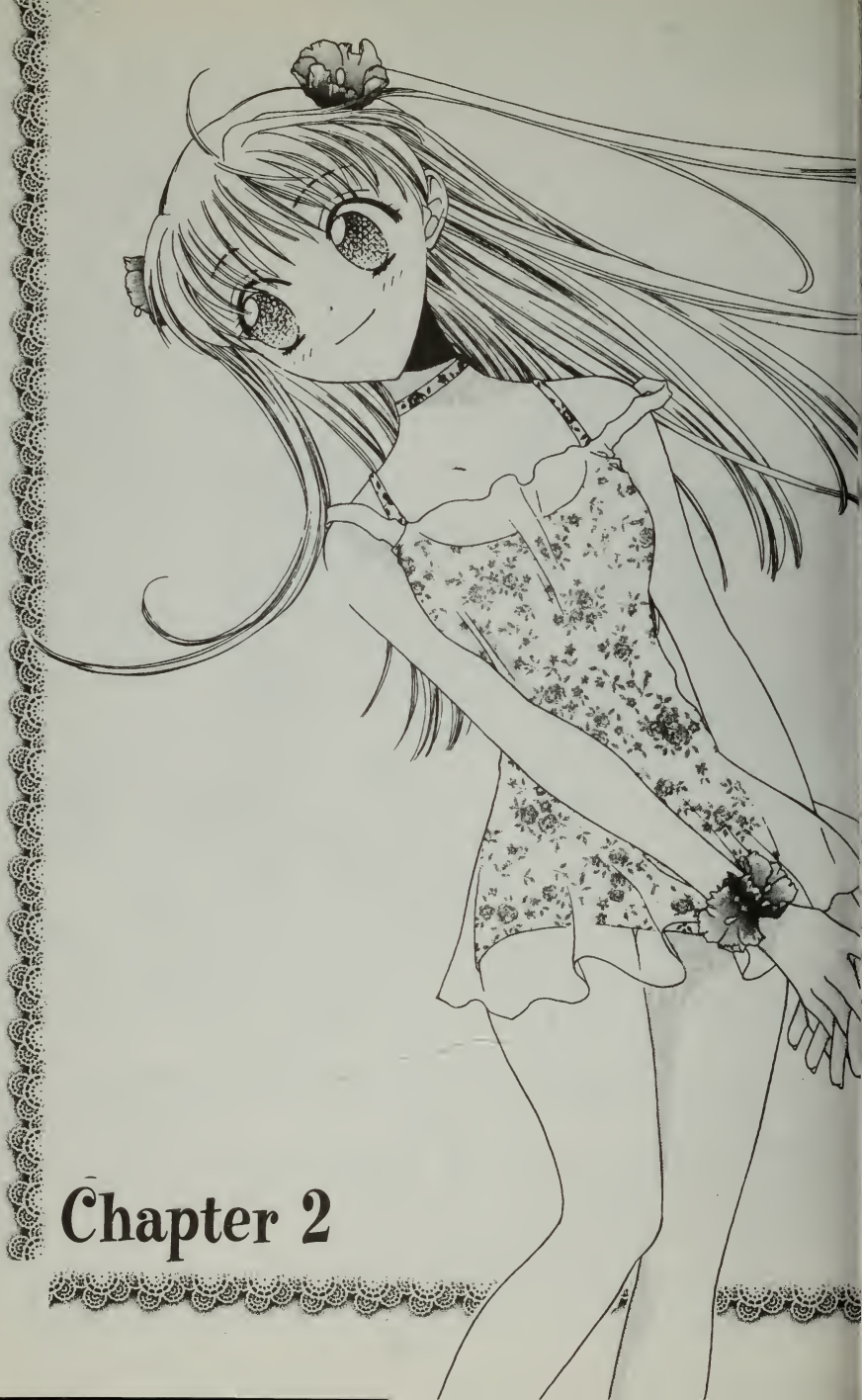
"AND..."

AAAAHHH!

...WAS
ANGRY
THAT HE
HAD BEEN
DECEIVED

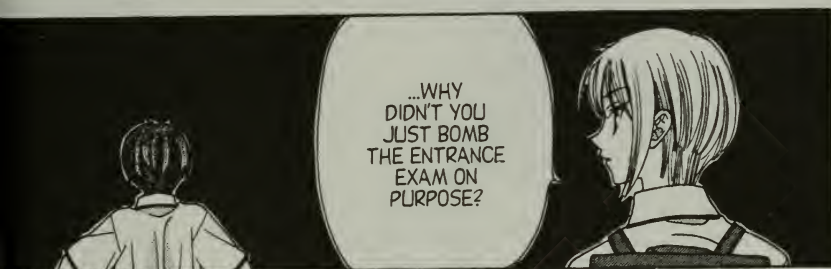
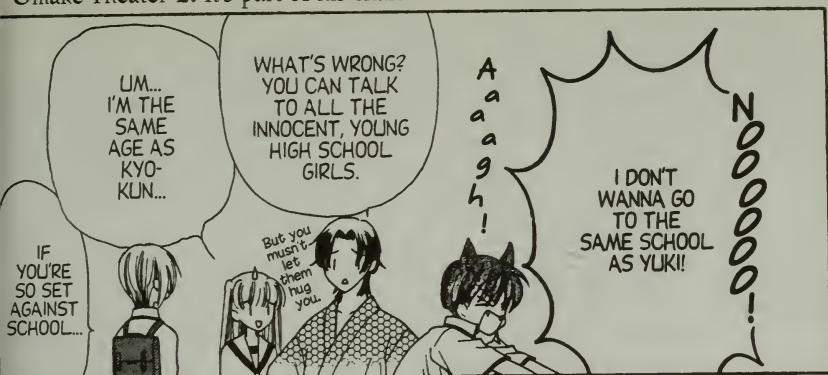
...THE CAT,
UNABLE TO
ATTEND THE
BANQUET...

KA
KA
KA



Chapter 2

Omake Theater 2: It's part of his charm.



Number 3:

Now I'm going to talk about games. I once wrote that I wouldn't play Sakura Wars 2... well, I played it. And...

IT WAS AWESOME!

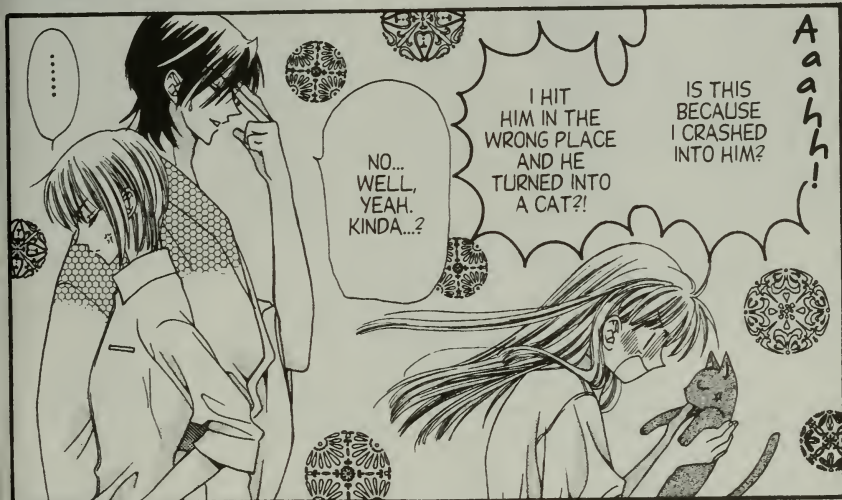
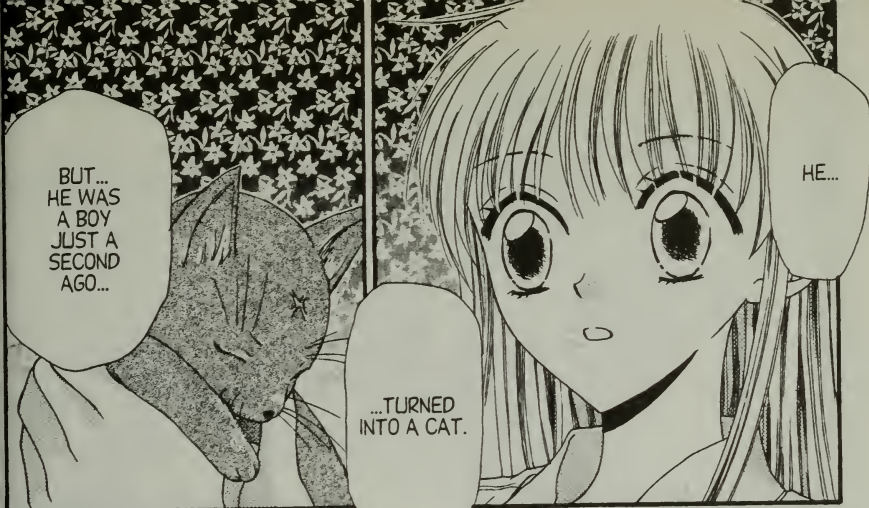
I'm hooked. Seriously, it's really good. And I ended up playing the first one, too (because I was so obsessed). It's weird that I'm more into SW2 than some of the games I worked on!

(Of course, I do all the best endings.)

It's also weird that K-chan (who has been a Sakura Wars fan from the beginning of time and is in love with Ren and Ohgami-san) and I are now having success with those two characters' storylines.

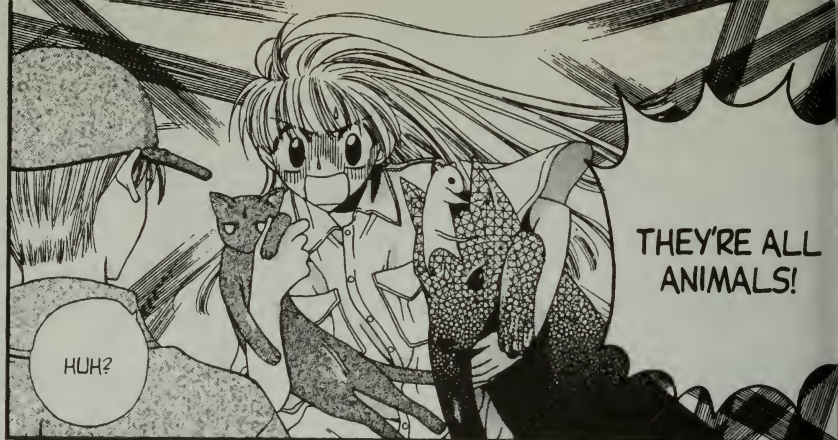
K-chan: thank you always for everything!





ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 1

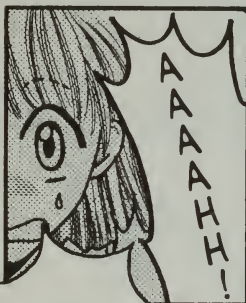
I got a letter from some smart aleck reminding me, "Didn't you say you wouldn't use English titles?" Well... I guess I did say that... And, actually, this book did have a Japanese title at first. But things happened (nothing really big) and it became "Fruits Basket." Sometimes that's just how it works.



HUH?

THEY'RE ALL
ANIMALS!

Heavy animals...!



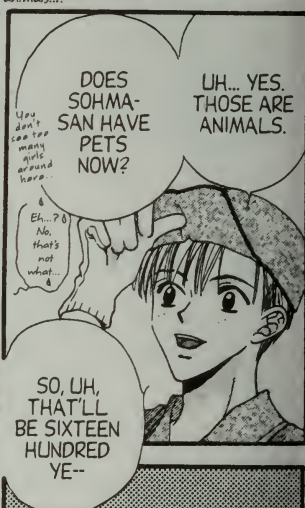
A-A-A-I-I-I-!

GREAT!
NOW HOW
ARE WE
GONNA
EXPLAIN
THIS
MESS?



WELL,
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
PATRONAGE.

AH
HA HA!
WHAT A
SMART
DOG!



DOES
SOHMA-
SAN HAVE
PETS
NOW?

UH... YES.
THOSE ARE
ANIMALS.

You don't see too many girls around here...

Eh...? O
No, that's not what...

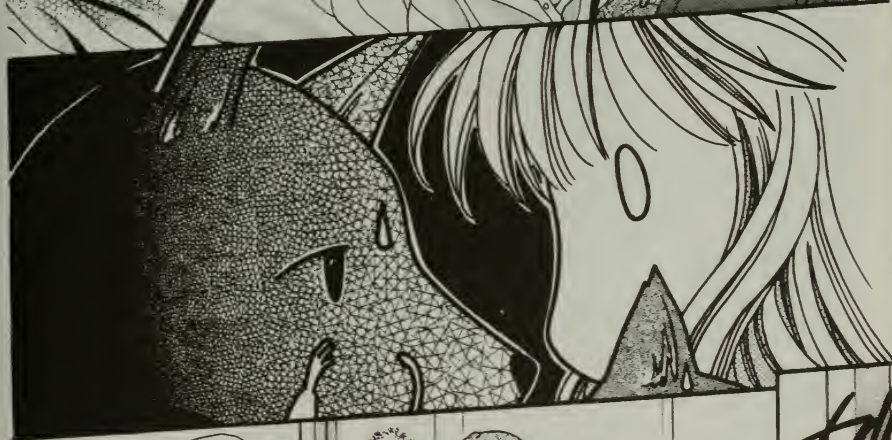
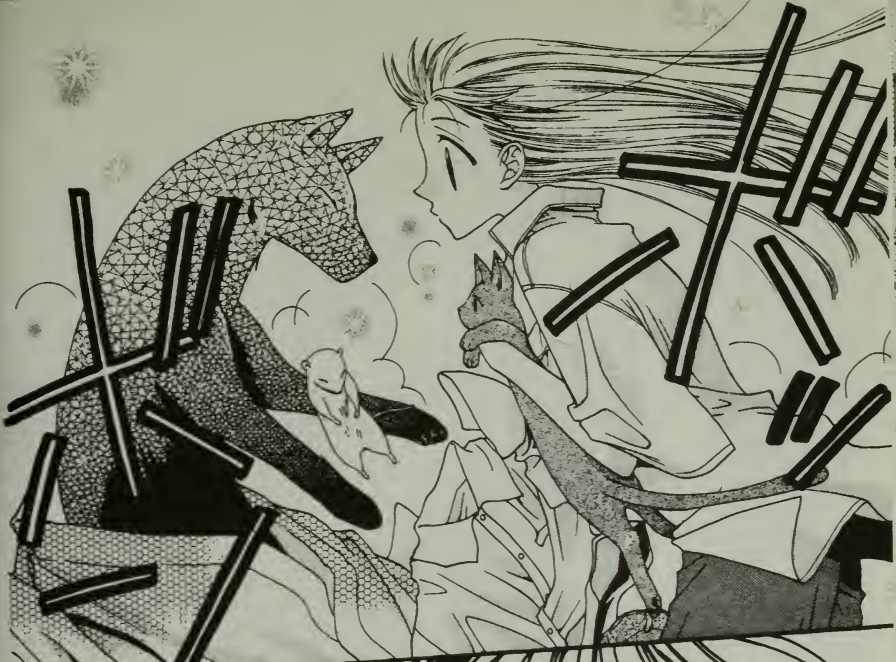
SO, UH,
THAT'LL
BE SIXTEEN
HUNDRED
YE--



DON'T
BLAME ME.
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO GOT
US INTO IT
STUPID
CAT.



Shi's
wallet



SOHMA-SAAAAAN?

HELLO? CHOPPAYA
DELIVERY
DID SOMEBODY
ORDER
BREAKFAST?



FOR
HUNDREDS
OF YEARS,
THE SOHMA
FAMILY...

OX, TIGER,
RABBIT,
DRAGON,
SNAKE...

...HORSE,
SHEEP,
MONKEY,
ROOSTER,
AND BOAR.

YES...
JUST
LIKE THE
CHINESE
ZODIAC.

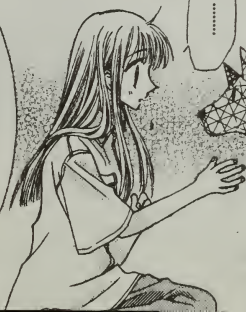
WE DON'T HAVE
ANY SPECIAL
POWERS OR
ANYTHING--

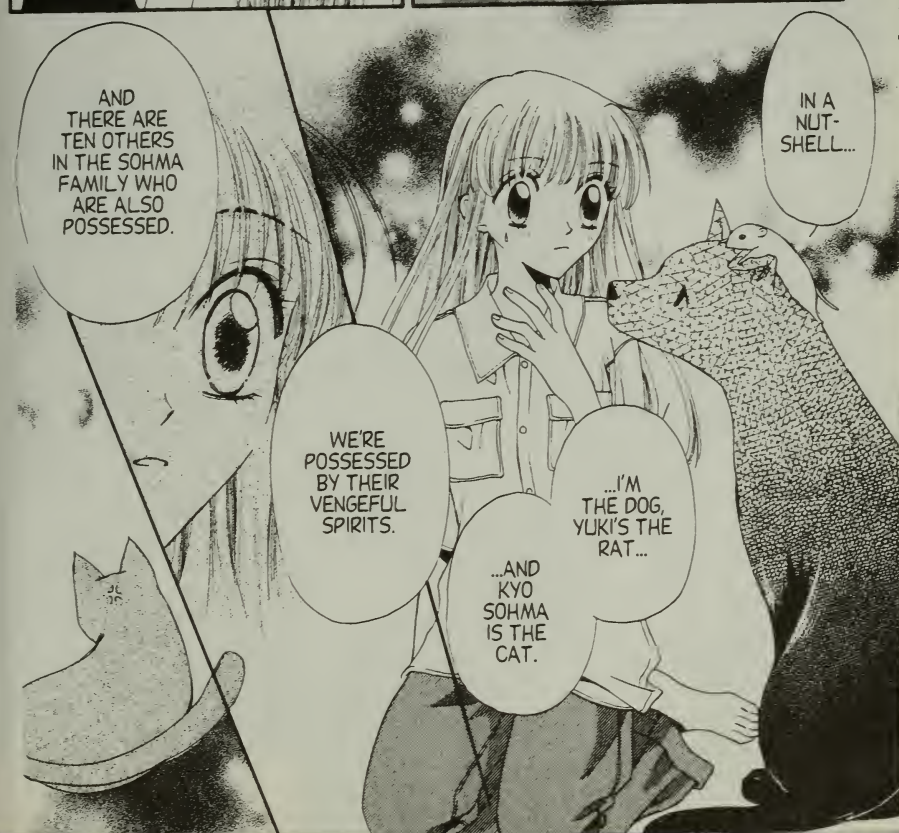
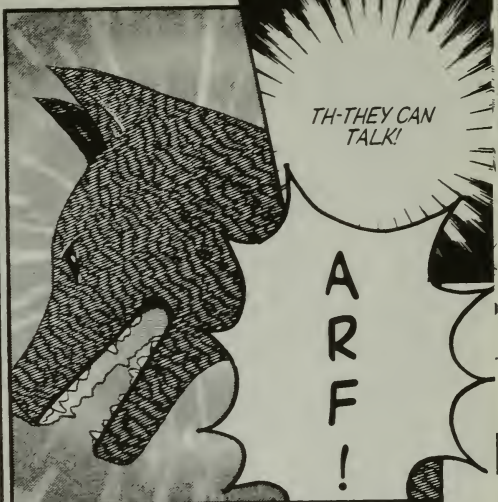
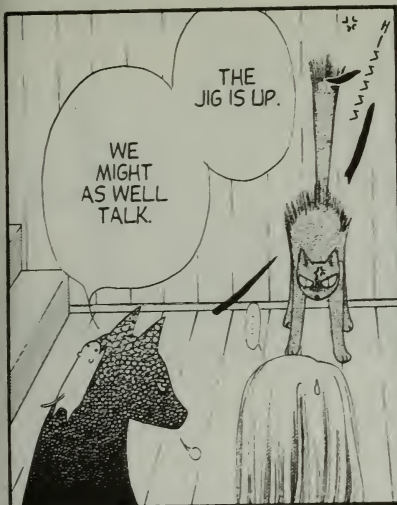
...HAS BEEN
POSSESSED
BY TWELVE
VENGEFUL
SPIRITS THAT
CORRESPOND
TO THE
ZODIAC.

AFTER
SOME TIME,
WE CHANGE
BACK INTO
HUMANS.

...BUT WHEN
OUR BODIES ARE
WEAK, AND, FOR
SOME REASON,
WHEN WE'RE
HUGGED BY
SOMEONE OF
THE OPPOSITE
GENDER, WE
TRANSFORM.

WELL,
WE CAN
COMMUNICATE
WITH OUR
RESPECTIVE
ANIMALS...





What a disgrace!

Kyo's such an idiot!

HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME STUDYING MARTIAL ARTS, BUT HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU WERE RIGHT BEHIND HIM!

HE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST FELT YOUR PRESENCE!

I HOPE HE PLANS ON TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS MESS.

OH YEAH!

SO HE'S THE CAT!

WH-WHAT'S HE LIKE...?!

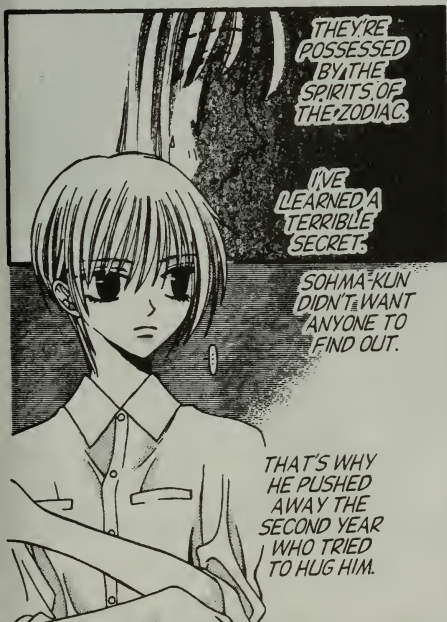
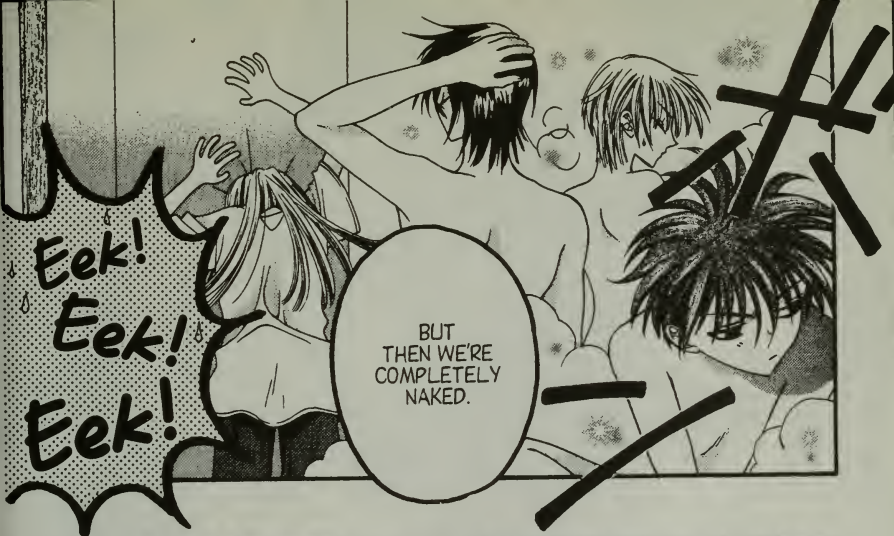
I CAN'T HELP IT IF PEOPLE COME SNEAKING UP ON ME!

WHAT'S SHE... WHAT'S A GIRL DOING HERE, ANYWAY?!

EH?

HA, HA, HA! HE'S LIKE A LOVESTRUCK FOOL-- HE ONLY HAS EYES FOR YUKI-KUN!

SHUT UP! DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT!



THEY'RE
POSSESSED
BY THE
SPIRITS OF
THE ZODIAC.

I'VE
LEARNED A
TERRIBLE
SECRET.

SOHMA-KUN
DIDN'T WANT
ANYONE TO
FIND OUT.

THAT'S WHY
HE PUSHED
AWAY THE
SECOND YEAR
WHO TRIED
TO HUG HIM.



YOU SAID
YOU WANTED
TO BE A CAT.
WHAT DO YOU
THINK NOW THAT
YOU'VE MET HIM
IN PERSON?

BY THE
WAY,
TOHRU-
KUN.

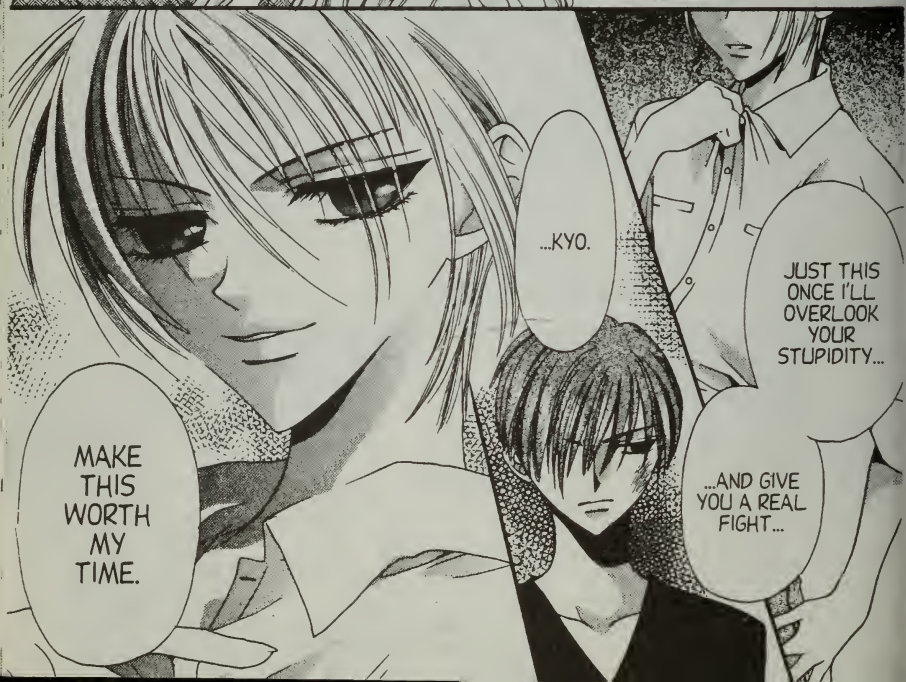
Whisper
whisper

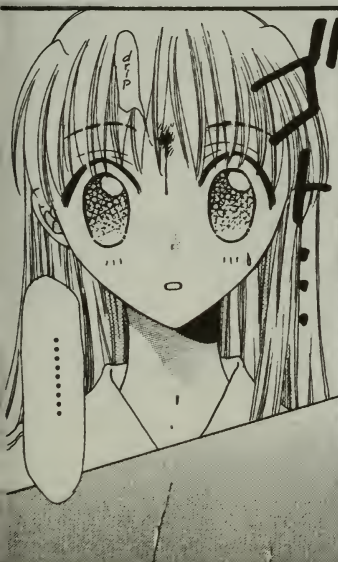


FEELING
BETTER?

SORRY
ABOUT THAT.
DIDN'T MEAN
TO SHOW YOU
THINGS YOU
WEREN'T
READY FOR.

I'M GETTING
THERE.





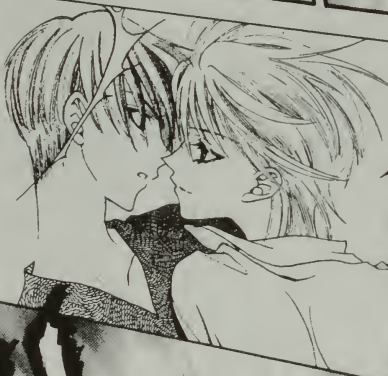
110

114

#2

7

...VICTORY FOR
YUKI-KUN.





SOHMA-KUN!

yawn

OH, THIS
AGAIN. THOSE
TWO HATE
EACH OTHER
WITH A
PASSION.



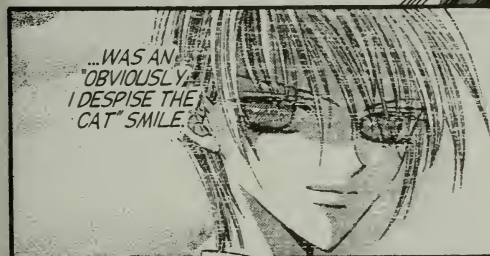
THEY SEE
EACH OTHER,
THEY FIGHT.

Right now
you should
be more
concerned
about
stopping
that
bleeding.



BRING
IT ON...

...PRETTY-BOY!



...WAS AN
"OBVIOUSLY,
I DESPISE THE
"CAT" SMILE.

"YOU...
HATE
CATS?"

AH!

SO THAT
SMILE
BACK
THEN...



AT ANY
RATE,
TODAY
WILL BE
ANOTHER...

HMM?
OH, NO.
IT'S
ALMOST
OVER.

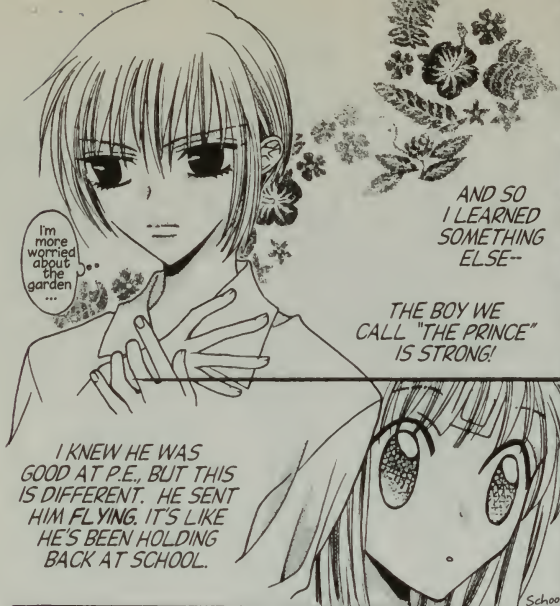
Peel



UH, UM,
SHOULDN'T
WE STOP
THEM?!

HAS
MEETING
KYO
CHANGED
YOUR MIND
ABOUT
WANTING
TO BE A
CAT?

Ah
ha
ha!

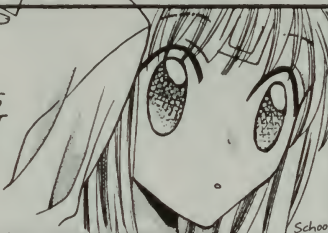


I'm more worried about the garden...

AND SO I LEARNED SOMETHING ELSE--

THE BOY WE CALL "THE PRINCE" IS STRONG!

I KNEW HE WAS GOOD AT P.E., BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT. HE SENT HIM FLYING. IT'S LIKE HE'S BEEN HOLDING BACK AT SCHOOL.



School...



UM, BUT, HE...!

OH... HE'LL BE FINE.

Probably.



IT'S OKAY, THIS ONE'S NOT TOO MUDDY! I'LL JUST TELL EVERYONE I FELL!

ALL YOUR UNIFORMS ARE COVERED IN MUD.

SCHOOL...? BUT WHAT WILL YOU WEAR?

Right?!

NO ONE IS GOING TO BUY THAT.

Her clothes were buried in the mudslide's



SCHOOL!

A A A H H H !

I'M GOING TO BE LATE!

.....

.....
.....
.....

...Flying!
He was sent...

YUKI-KUN, DON'T YOU GO DESTROYING THE HOUSE, TOO!

SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK HE'D FLY THAT FAR. HIS GUARD IS TERRIBLE.

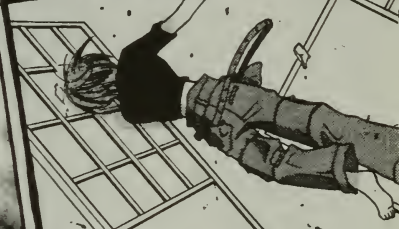
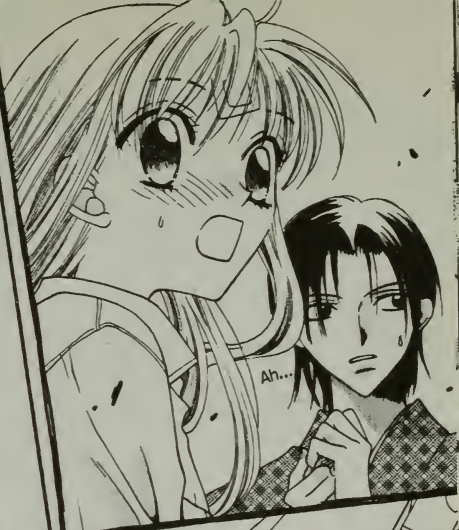
HONDA-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?

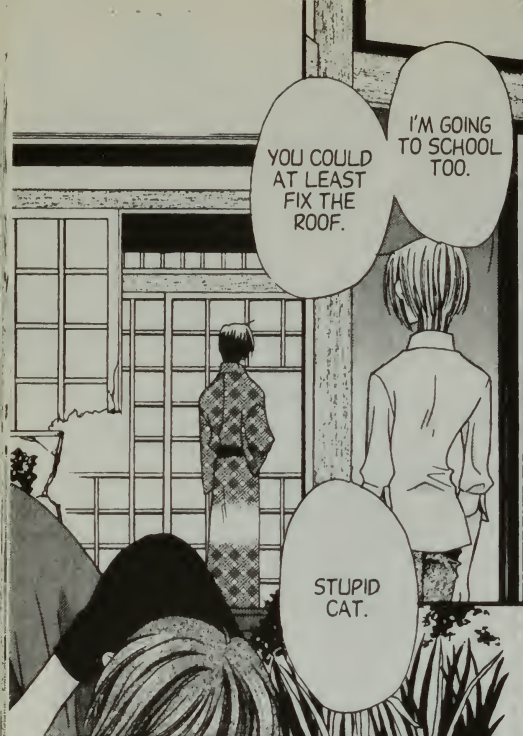
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU...

...TO MAKE IT WORTH MY TIME.

Sigh

Ah!
I'M COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY FINE!!





YOU COULD
AT LEAST
FIX THE
ROOF.

I'M GOING
TO SCHOOL
TOO.

STUPID
CAT.



I
HAVE NO
SUCH
PLANS.

LAST TIME
THERE WERE
TOO MANY
PEOPLE
INVOLVED--
WE HAD TO
TAKE STEPS.



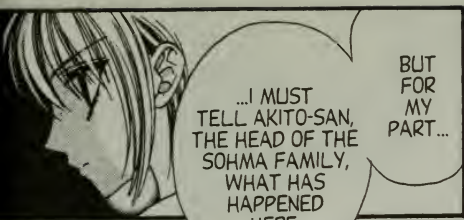
.....
SHUT UP!



KYO-KUN,
LOOK
AFTER
THINGS
WHILE
WE'RE
GONE.

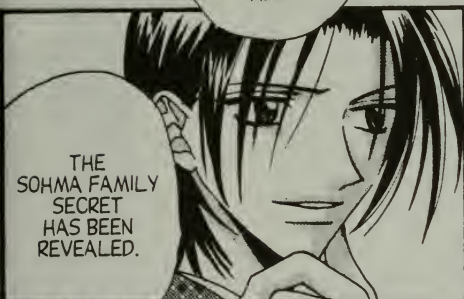
AND
PLEASE,
DON'T
DISAPPEAR
AGAIN.

OH,
AND DO
APOLOGIZE TO
TOHRU-KUN
LATER.

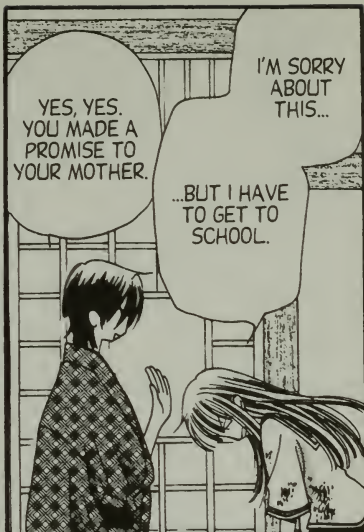


...I MUST
TELL AKITO-SAN,
THE HEAD OF THE
SOHMA FAMILY,
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED
HERE.

BUT
FOR
MY
PART...



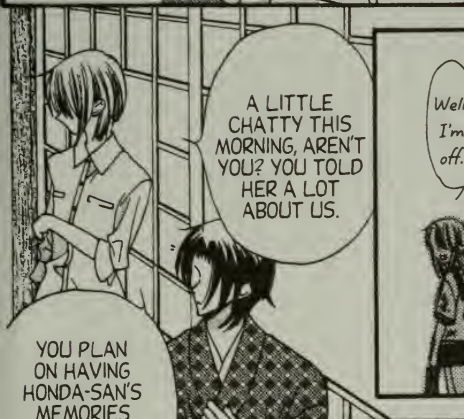
THE
SOHMA FAMILY
SECRET
HAS BEEN
REVEALED.



YES, YES.
YOU MADE A
PROMISE TO
YOUR MOTHER.

I'M SORRY
ABOUT
THIS...

...BUT I HAVE
TO GET TO
SCHOOL.



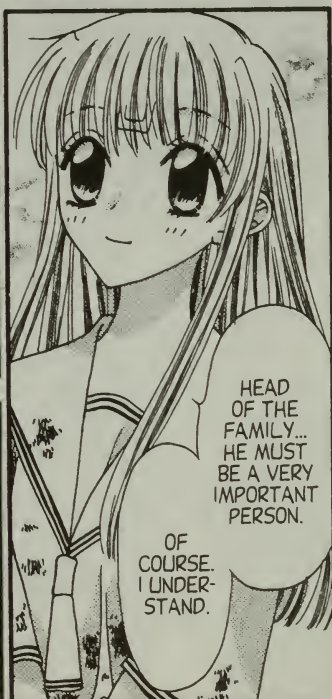
A LITTLE
CHATTY THIS
MORNING, AREN'T
YOU? YOU TOLD
HER A LOT
ABOUT US.

Well,
I'm
off.



YOU PLAN
ON HAVING
HONDA-SAN'S
MEMORIES
SUPPRESSED,
DON'T YOU?

LIKE
THE LAST
TIME.



HEAD
OF THE
FAMILY...
HE MUST
BE A VERY
IMPORTANT
PERSON.

OF
COURSE.
I UNDER-
STAND.

KEEP
DOOR
CLOSED



YOU
DIDN'T
TELL
THEM, DID
YOU?

YOUR
FRIENDS.

ABOUT US?



HONDA-
SAN.



NO,
IT'S NOT
THAT.

I...WOULD
NEVER TELL
ANYONE!

MY MOM
ALWAYS TOLD ME
THAT GOSSIPING
IS WRONG!



TELL
THEM...?
NO.

I
DIDN'T--!



WHAT KIND
OF PERSON
WAS HER
MOTHER
...?

No,
I told
you
that's
not it.

I'm pretty sure
my mom did
stuff like
that.

I PROMISE!
I'LL SIGN
MY NAME IN
BLOOD OR BURN
MYSELF WITH
A CIGARETTE OR
ANYTHING YOU
WANT!

AM I
MAKING YOU
NERVOUS?! I'M
A LIABILITY,
AREN'T I?!

PITY YOU
WASHED
YOUR
UNIFORM.

OH
NO...

THE MUD
LOOKED
SO GOOD
ON YOU.

YOU LOOKED
TERRIBLE.
WHERE DID
YOU FALL,
ANYWAY?

In
a pig
pen??

THANK
GOODNESS...

...I WAS
ABLE TO
BORROW
THE
SCHOOL'S
WASHING
MACHINE.

I-I'M
GOING
TO GO
CHANGE
IN THE
LOCKER
ROOM.

I can't
tell her
I'm staying
in the
Prince's
house.

What
a lame
put-
down.

THE
PRINCE
IS LATE
TODAY, TOO.
NO WONDER
THEY'RE
MORE
SUSPICIOUS
THAN
USUAL.

THANK
YOU, HANA-
CHAN.

Eheh!
That's
okay.

You
want
me to
go with
you?



.....

*YOU WOULD
BE FORCED
TO LIVE
ALONE.*

*I CANNOT
DEFY AKITO'S
WISHES.*

*WHAT HE
DECIDES IS
WHAT MUST
BE DONE.*

*SOHMA-
KUN...?*



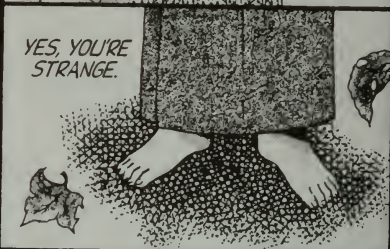
*SO...
I'M SORRY.*



AKITO.

*AM I SO STRANGE
THAT WE HAVE
TO ERASE PEOPLE'S
MEMORIES TO
HIDE IT?*

*YES, YOU'RE
STRANGE.*



*IS IT NOT
STRANGE
FOR A BOY
TO TURN
INTO A RAT?*

*IF NORMAL
PEOPLE KNEW
YOUR SECRET
IT WOULD SICKEN
THEM. THEY'D
STAY AWAY
FROM YOU.*

...BUT YOUR
MEMORIES
MIGHT HAVE TO
BE ERASED.

カ
ン
ッ

Huh
?!
!

I'M SORRY...

YOU'RE GOING
TO ALL THIS
TROUBLE TO
KEEP OUR
SECRET. BUT
IT MAY NOT
BE ENOUGH.

IT CAUSED
SUCH A
COMMOTION THAT
EVENTUALLY THEY
HAD TO SUPPRESS
THE MEMORIES
OF EVERYONE
WHO WAS
THERE.



AKITO
...

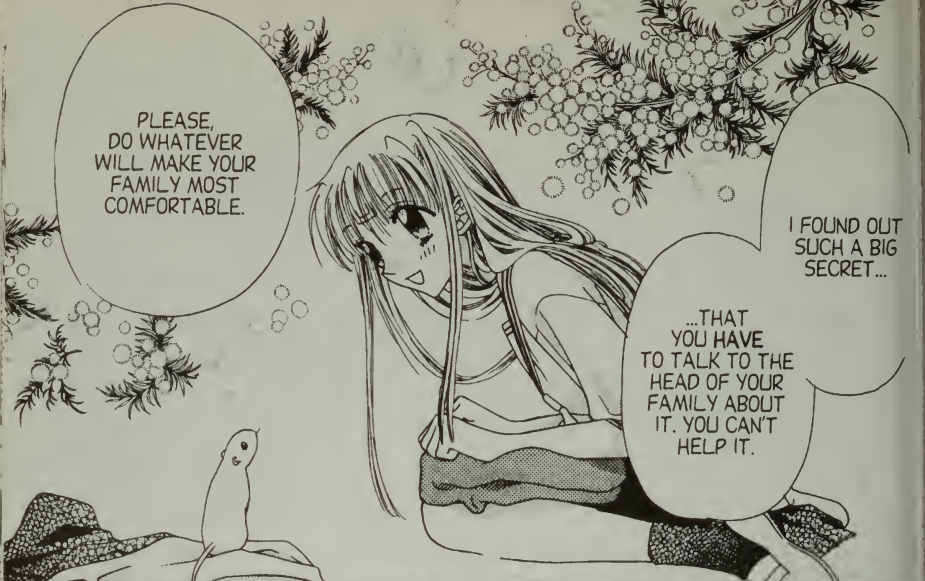
.....
!?

I SAY "ERASED,"
BUT IT'S MORE
LIKE HYPNOSIS.

WE WERE
PLAYING IN
THE GARDEN
AT THE MAIN
HOUSE. A GIRL
GOT CARRIED
AWAY AND
HUGGED ME.

A LONG TIME
AGO, OUR
SECRET GOT
OUT, LIKE IT
DID TODAY.

I WAS IN
SECOND
GRADE.



PLEASE,
DO WHATEVER
WILL MAKE YOUR
FAMILY MOST
COMFORTABLE.

I FOUND OUT
SUCH A BIG
SECRET...

...THAT
YOU HAVE
TO TALK TO THE
HEAD OF YOUR
FAMILY ABOUT
IT. YOU CAN'T
HELP IT.

I'LL BE
SAD TO FORGET,
THOUGH.

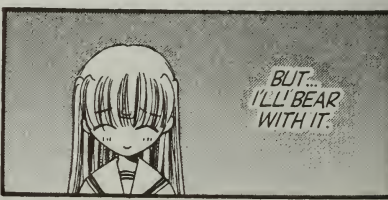


THERE IS
ONE THING--
PLEASE...
IF MY
MEMORIES
ARE
ERASED...

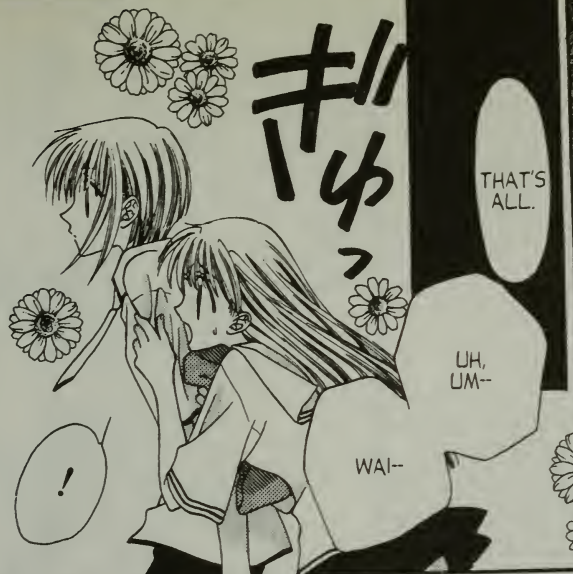
...WILL
YOU STILL
BE MY
FRIEND?

THEY TOOK ME
INTO THEIR HOUSE
UNCONDITIONALLY
WHEN THEY FOUND
OUT I WAS LIVING
IN A TENT.

I WAS SO
VERY HAPPY.



BUT...
I'LL BEAR
WITH IT.



THAT'S ALL.

UH, UM--

WAI--

YOU NEVER ASKED TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE SOHMA FAMILY'S PROBLEMS.

I'M SORRY.



Um...

THANK YOU FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME.

IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY... I, UH--

IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE.

DON'T SWEAT IT. IT'S FINE. AS LONG AS NO ONE SAW...

I DIDN'T DO THAT ON PURPOSE. OH, I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!

I, M S O S D R Y !!



"WILL
YOU STILL
BE MY
FRIEND?"

THANK
YOU.

ANYTIME!
I'M GOOD
AT TYING
NECKTIES.



DO YOU
WANT TO...
WALK
HOME
TOGETHER?
...HEY.

OKAY!

LET'S
GO HOME!



か
ち
や

I'M GOING TO
PUT MY STUFF
IN MY ROOM.

IT
LOOKS LIKE
SHIGURE ISN'T
BACK YET.



IT SEEMS
IT DIDN'T
TAKE LONG
TO CHANGE
BACK THIS
TIME.



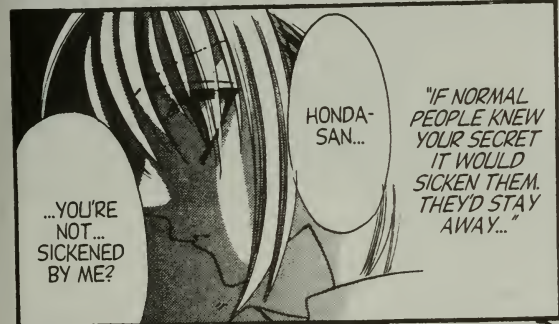
OH...I'M
TERRIBLE AT
THIS KIND OF
THING.

EH?

SOHMA-KUN,
YOUR
TIE IS
CROOKED.



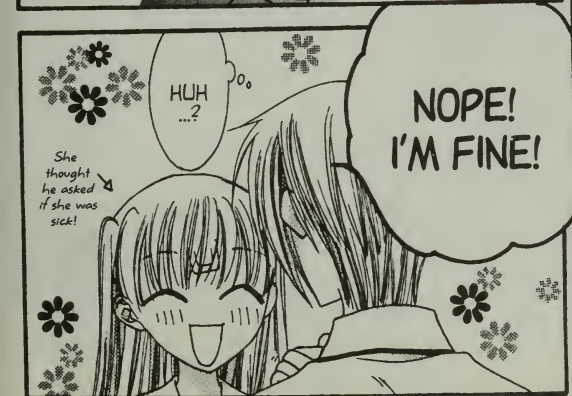
ACK!



...YOU'RE
NOT...
SICKENED
BY ME?

HONDA-
SAN...

"IF NORMAL
PEOPLE KNEW
YOUR SECRET
IT WOULD
SICKEN THEM.
THEY'D STAY
AWAY..."



HUH
...?

NOPE!
I'M FINE!

She
thought
he asked
if she was
sick!



tee
hee
hee!

THAT
SURPRISES
ME.

IT'S
MY TURN
TO HELP
YOU!

FORGET
IT!

I'M SORR--

...THIS
MORNING!

I'M
HOME!

Shh

BUT?!

WHA--?!

YUKI-KUN,
TOHRU-KUN,
I'M HOME!

OH, AND
LET'S NOT
FORGET
STUPID-
CLUMSY-
KYO-KUN-
WHO-LOST-
YET-ANOTHER-
FIGHT!

I WON'T
BE PUNISHED
?!

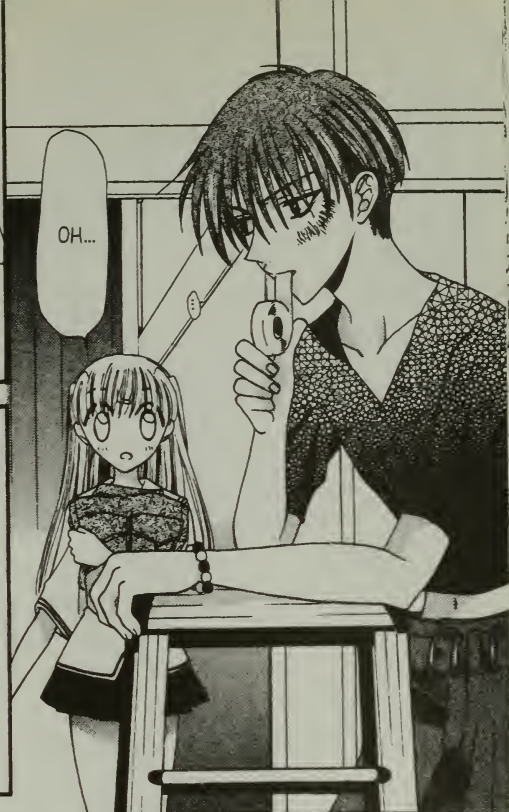
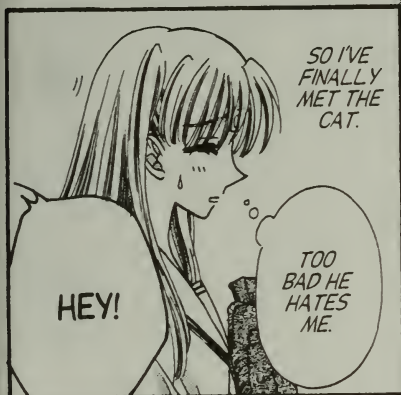
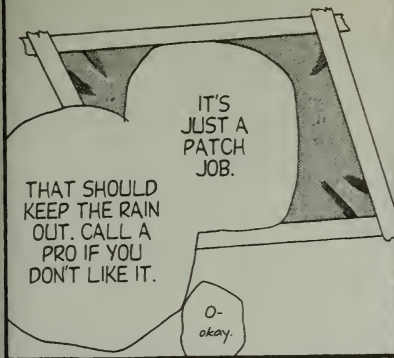
GOOD
NEWS.

Punished?!

BUT YOU
ABSOLUTELY
MUST KEEP
OUR SECRET!
'KAY?

Okay!

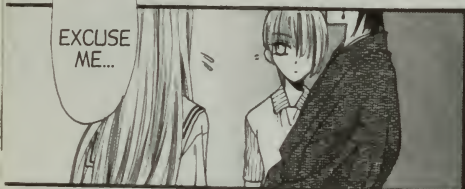
AS LONG
AS SHE KEEPS
OUR SECRET,
TOHRU-KUN
CAN STAY.





NOOO...
DON'T
BE
SILLY!

REALLY,
YUKI-KUN.
YOU MUST
LEARN TO
BE MORE
TRUSTING OF
PEOPLE--



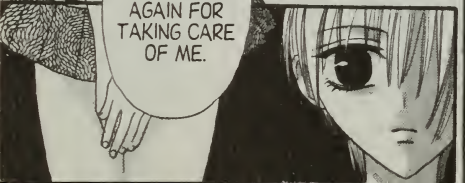
EXCUSE
ME...



UM...
IT'S
STRANGE
TO SAY
THIS
AGAIN,
BUT...

...I AM
AT YOUR
MERCY.

THANK
YOU ONCE
AGAIN FOR
TAKING CARE
OF ME.



I'LL
TRUST THIS
TOHRU-SAN.



THIS MAY
EVEN PROVE
FORTUITOUS
FOR YUKI AND
KYO...AND
FOR ME.

Heh
YUKI DOES
HAVE GOOD
INSTINCTS,
BUT STILL...
PROCEED WITH
CAUTION.
Heh



HE WANTS
KYO-KUN TO
STAY HERE,
TOO.



*I WON'T
LOSE MY
MEMORIES!*

THERE
IS ONE
MORE
THING--



DON'T
BLAME
ME. AKITO-
SAN'S
WORD
IS LAW.

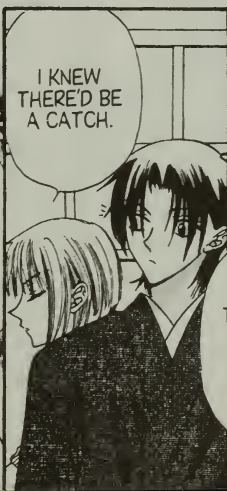
I HAVE TO
LIVE UNDER
THE SAME
ROOF AS
THAT DAMN
YUKI?!

W
H
A
T
?



YOU AND
AKITO...
AREN'T
SCHEMING
ANYTHING
ARE YOU?

BUT TO
INVOLVE
TOHRU...



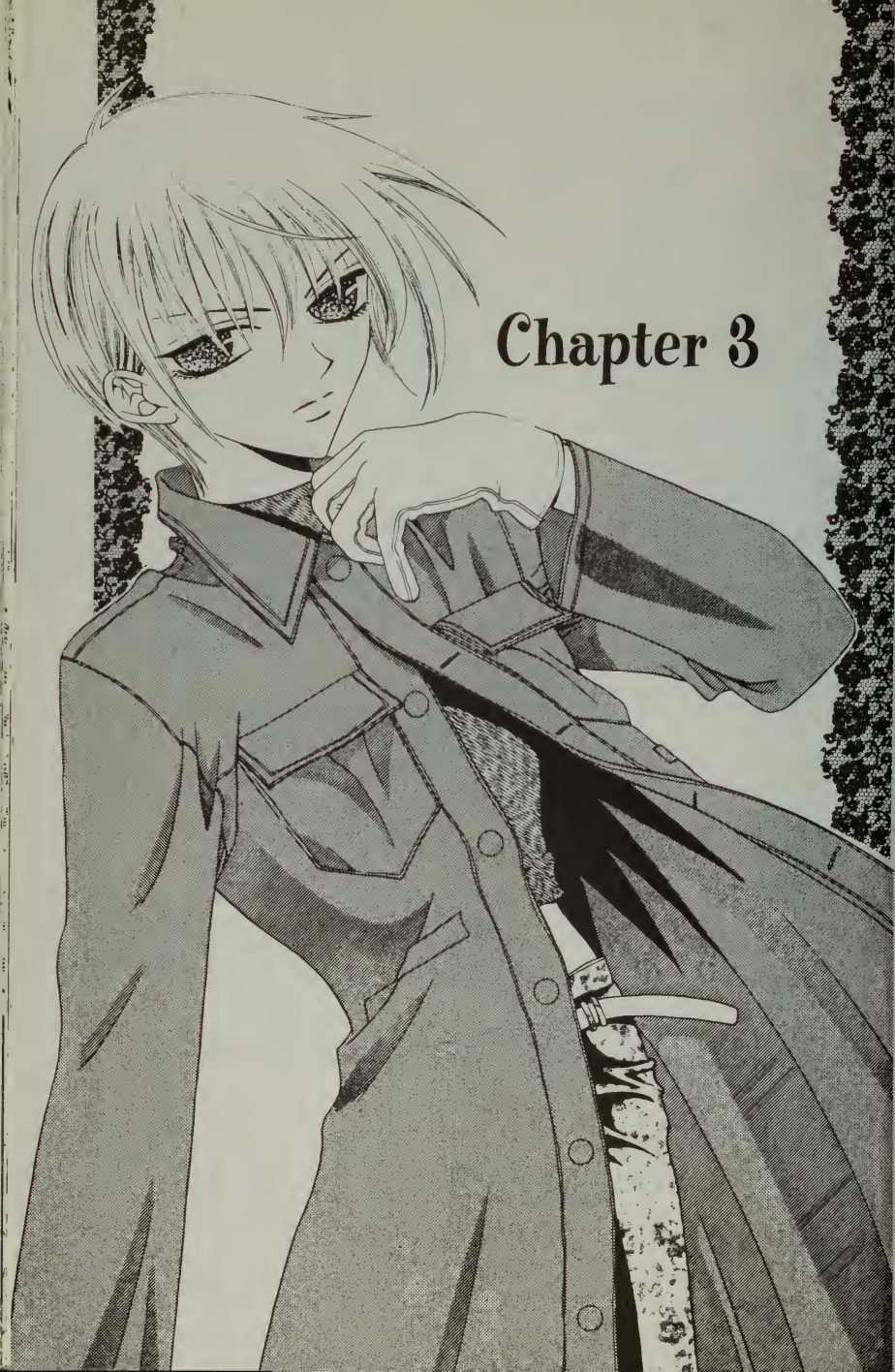
I KNEW
THERE'D BE
A CATCH.

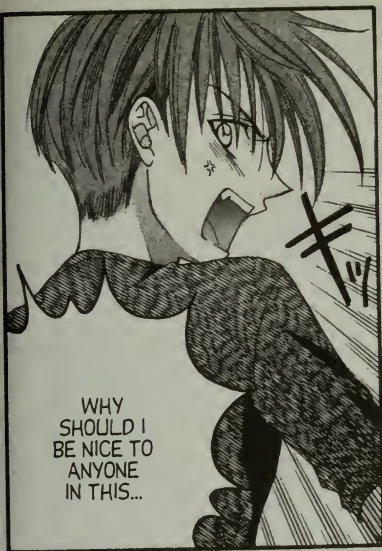


YOU'VE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING ME!
DAMMIT,
AKITO!

HE'S
TRYING TO
COLLAR
THAT
STUPID
CAT.

Chapter 3





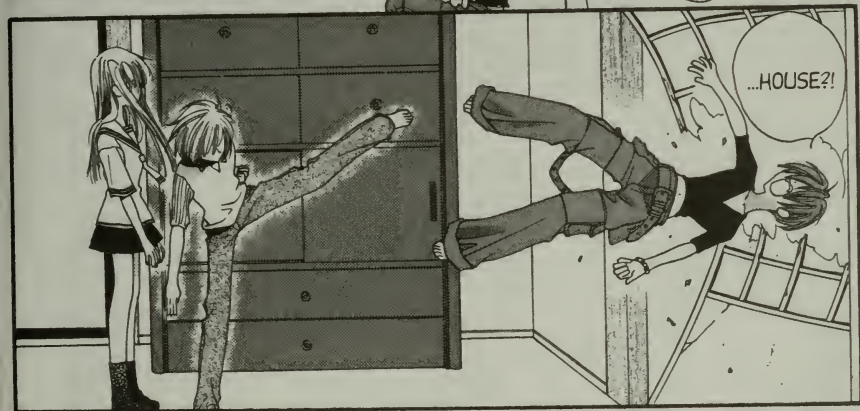
WHY
SHOULD I
BE NICE TO
ANYONE
IN THIS...

I AM
IN DEBT TO
YOU, TOO,
KYO-SAN.

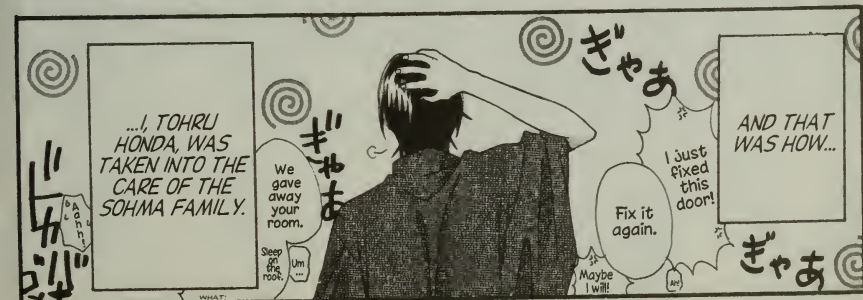


YEAH...

OUR
MERCY
...



...HOUSE?!



...I, TOHRU
HONDA, WAS
TAKEN INTO THE
CARE OF THE
SOHMA FAMILY.

We
gave
away
your
room.

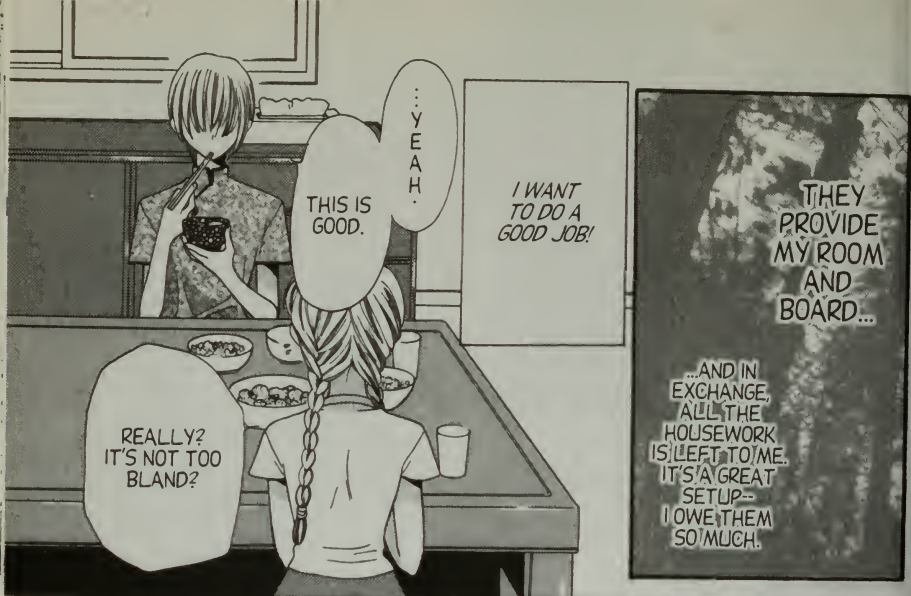
Sleep
at
the
room.
Um...

Fix
it
again.

Maybe
I will!

AND THAT
WAS HOW...

ぎゃあ



THIS IS GOOD.

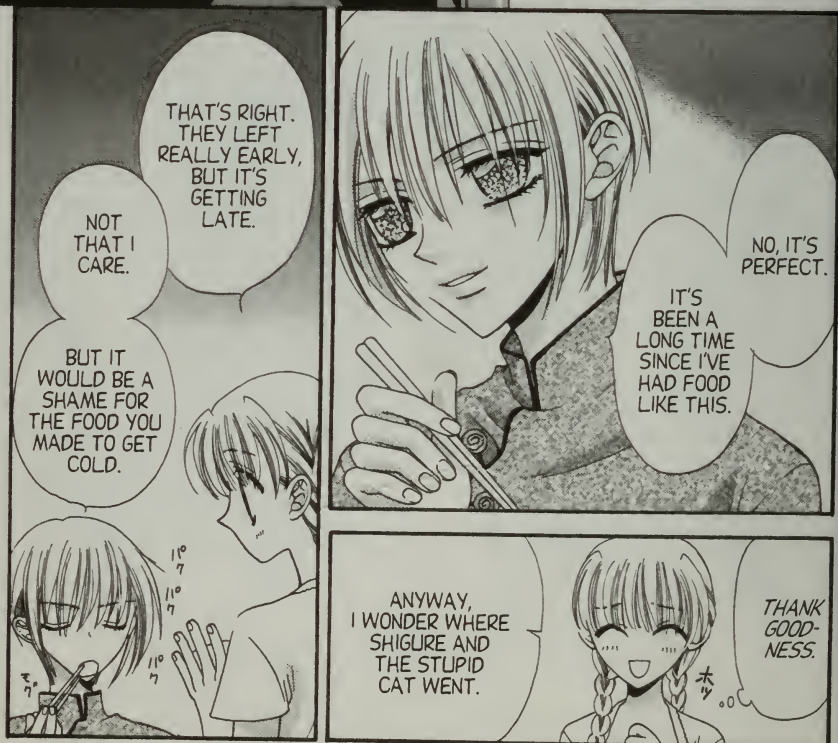
...YEAH.

I WANT TO DO A GOOD JOB!

THEY PROVIDE MY ROOM AND BOARD...

REALLY? IT'S NOT TOO BLAND?

...AND IN EXCHANGE, ALL THE HOUSEWORK IS LEFT TO ME. IT'S A GREAT SETUP-- I OWE THEM SO MUCH.



THAT'S RIGHT. THEY LEFT REALLY EARLY, BUT IT'S GETTING LATE.

NOT THAT I CARE.

BUT IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR THE FOOD YOU MADE TO GET COLD.

NO, IT'S PERFECT.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HAD FOOD LIKE THIS.

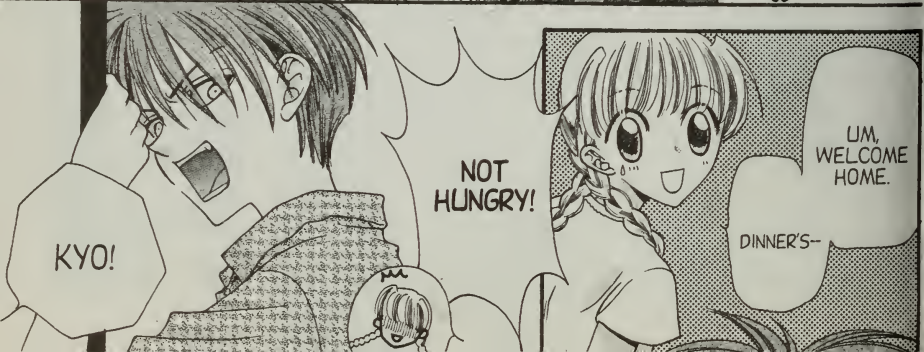
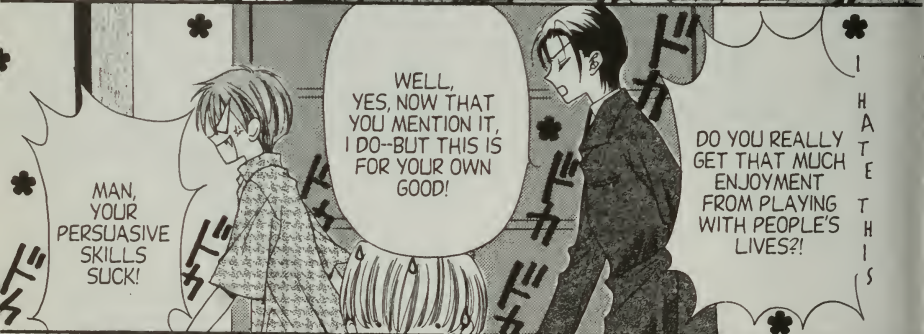
ANYWAY, I WONDER WHERE SHIGURE AND THE STUPID CAT WENT.

THANK GOODNESS.



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 2

A martial artist has to have a firm body. They have to have muscles. But Yuki and Kyo are scrawny (ha ha). That's just because I don't like drawing muscles very much. I prefer a slender aesthetic for my men. Don't worry too much about it. Not that people had been pointing it out to me; I was just worried about it myself.



IT'S
LIKE A
FAIRY
TALE.

...WHO
TRANSFORMS
INTO THE
RAT FROM
THE ZODIAC
LEGEND.

YOU
WENT OUT
EARLIER, TOO,
DIDN'T YOU,
SOHMA-
KUN?

WERE YOU
SHOPPING?



MOM, THIS
IS KIND OF
STRANGE.

I'M EATING
DINNER WITH
SOHMA-KUN...



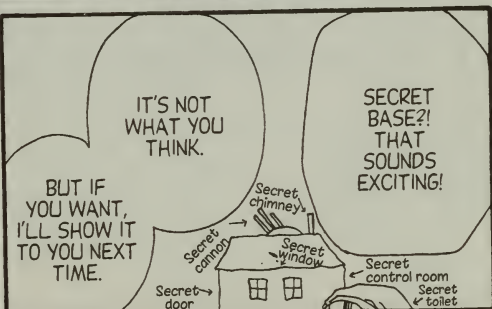
REALLY?
ARE YOU
SURE?!

I-I'M
SO HAPPY!
A SECRET
BASE!



...IN MY
SECRET
BASE.

OH,
I WAS IN
THE BACK-
YARD.



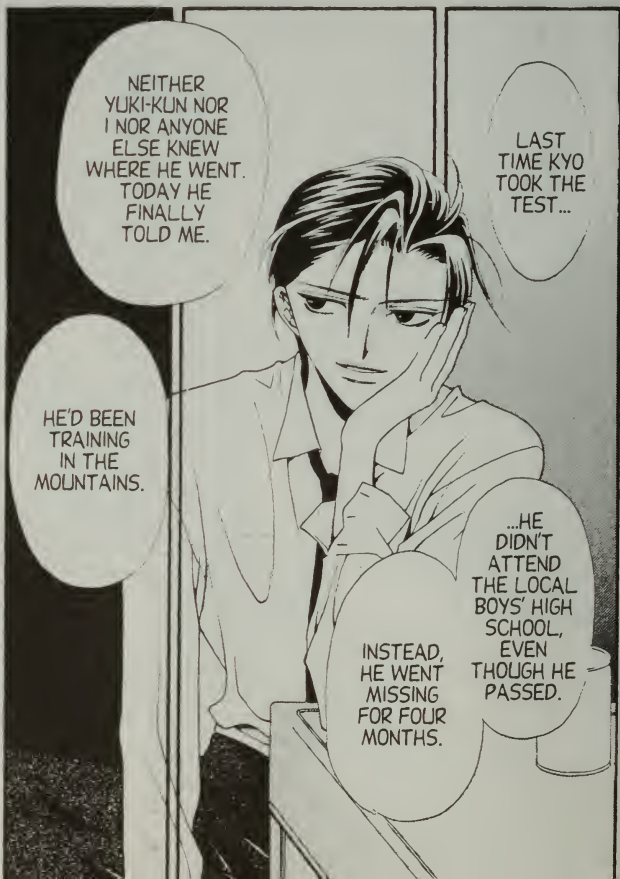
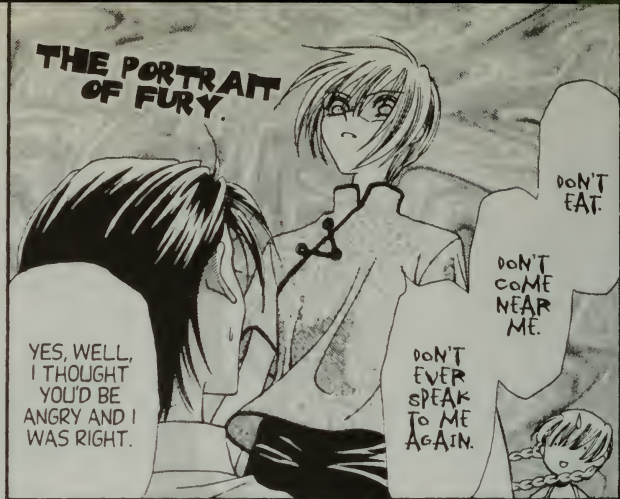
IT'S NOT
WHAT YOU
THINK.

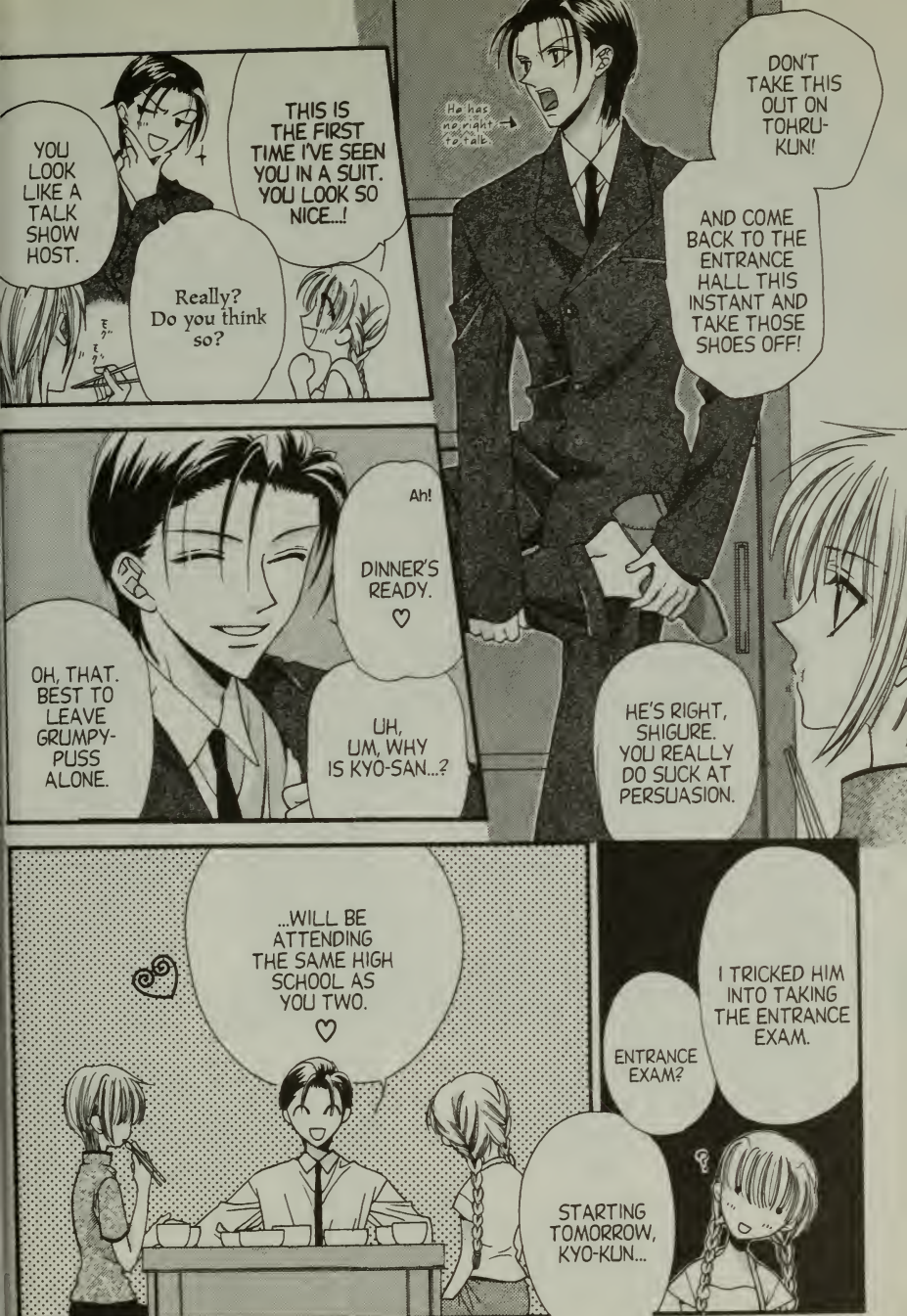
BUT IF
YOU WANT,
I'LL SHOW IT
TO YOU NEXT
TIME.

SECRET
BASE?!
THAT
SOUNDS
EXCITING!

Number 4:

I finished "Romance of the The Three Kingdoms," "Black Matrix" and "Pretty League." My characters were so strong that I won all the battles. I'm happy, but a little dramatic tension would've been nice, too (ha ha). I'll finish "Tokyo Friend" soon, too. It's a shame that all the main characters are guys, it would've been nice to play a girl! The one I'm waiting for now is "Teigaku Graph." (K-chan is looking forward to it more than I am.) I'm looking forward to "Knight R." And "Hey You, Pikachu!" Where will I ever find the time? I'll just sleep less! Then faint.





YOU
LOOK
LIKE A
TALK
SHOW
HOST.

THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE SEEN
YOU IN A SUIT.
YOU LOOK SO
NICE...!

Really?
Do you think
so?

He has
no right
to talk.

DON'T
TAKE THIS
OUT ON
TOHRU-
KUN!

AND COME
BACK TO THE
ENTRANCE
HALL THIS
INSTANT AND
TAKE THOSE
SHOES OFF!

OH, THAT.
BEST TO
LEAVE
GRUMPY-
PUSS
ALONE.

Ah!

DINNER'S
READY.

♡

UH,
UM, WHY
IS KYO-SAN...?

HE'S RIGHT,
SHIGURE.
YOU REALLY
DO SUCK AT
PERSUASION.

...WILL BE
ATTENDING
THE SAME HIGH
SCHOOL AS
YOU TWO.

♡

I TRICKED HIM
INTO TAKING
THE ENTRANCE
EXAM.

ENTRANCE
EXAM?

STARTING
TOMORROW,
KYO-KUN...

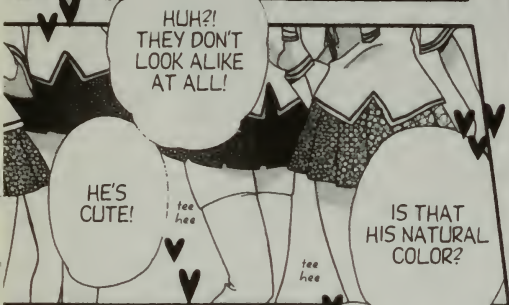
?



WHERE?!

LOOK,
OVER THERE!
THE GUY WITH
THE ORANGE
HAIR.

WHERE
IS HE?!



HUH?!
THEY DON'T
LOOK ALIKE
AT ALL!

HE'S
CUTE!

IS THAT
HIS NATURAL
COLOR?



HEY, ARE YOU
REALLY SOHMA-
KUN'S COUSIN?!

DO YOU
GUYS GET
ALONG?!



HE'S
GETTING
SCARED...!

tee
hee



ANYWAY,
I THINK KYO-
SAN HATES
ME.

IT'S
KIND OF
SAD.

I FINALLY
MET THE CAT
FROM THE
ZODIAC...



CIP



.....

THAT
IDIOT.

HE WANTS
TO BEAT
SOHMA-KUN
SO BADLY
THAT HE
WENT
TO THE
MOUNTAINS
TO TRAIN.

IS IT BECAUSE HE
HOLDS A GRUDGE
ABOUT BEING
TRICKED, LIKE IN
THE STORY?

I FEEL
LIKE IT
WOULD BE
WRONG TO
ASK KYO-
SAN.



LIKE
SITTING UNDER
A WATERFALL
AND WRESTLING
BEARS? THAT
KIND OF
TRAINING?

TRAINING?

HMMM...
WELL,
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT...
I GUESS.

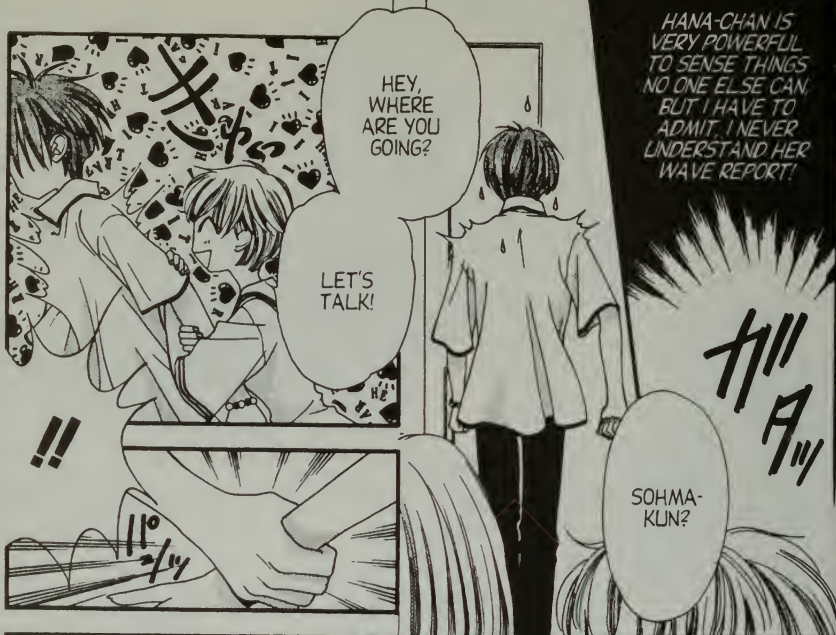


WHAT IS
HE GOING
TO DO...
WITH HIS
TRAINING?

KYO
WANTS TO
BEAT YUKI-
KUN IN A
FIGHT.



EVER
SINCE
THEY WERE
LITTLE, HE HAS
BEEN KYO'S
RIVAL.



HEY,
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

LET'S
TALK!

HANA-CHAN IS
VERY POWERFUL
TO SENSE THINGS
NO ONE ELSE CAN,
BUT I HAVE TO
ADMIT I NEVER
UNDERSTAND HER
WAVE REPORT!

SOHMA-
KUN?



KYO!

SOHMA-KUN,
WHAT'S
WRONG?



JUST...
CHILL,
OKAY?

LET
GO!



OW!
THAT
HURTS!

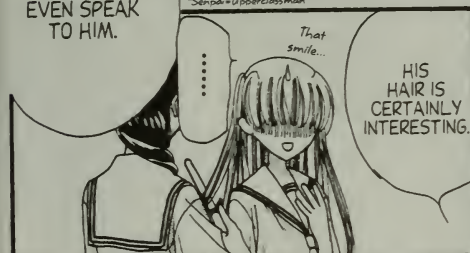
KUGA
A A A
H!



I'M
SORRY,
SENPAI.
HE IS MY
COUSIN, BUT
WE'RE NOT
CLOSE.

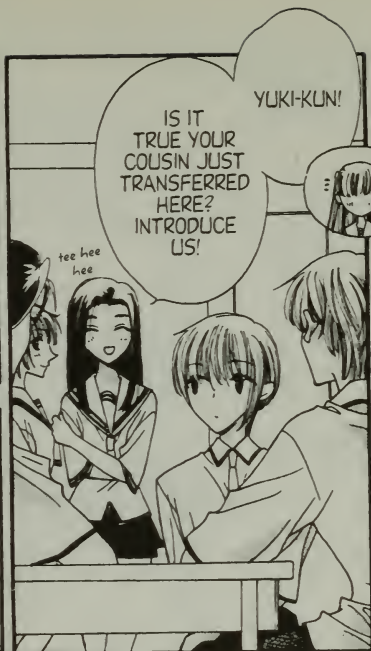
I DON'T
EVEN SPEAK
TO HIM.

*Senpai = Upperclassman



That
smile...

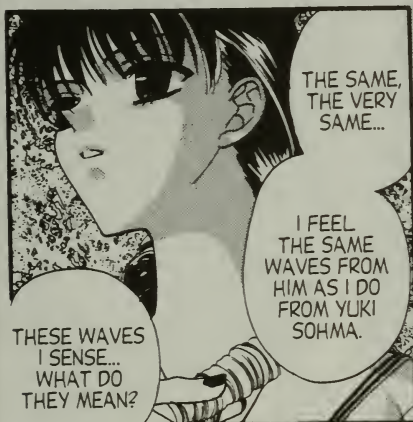
HIS
HAIR IS
CERTAINLY
INTERESTING.



YUKI-KUN!

IS IT
TRUE YOUR
COUSIN JUST
TRANSFERRED
HERE?
INTRODUCE
US!

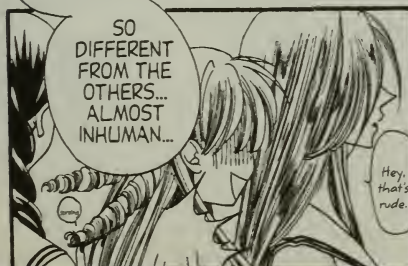
tee hee
hee



THE SAME,
THE VERY
SAME...

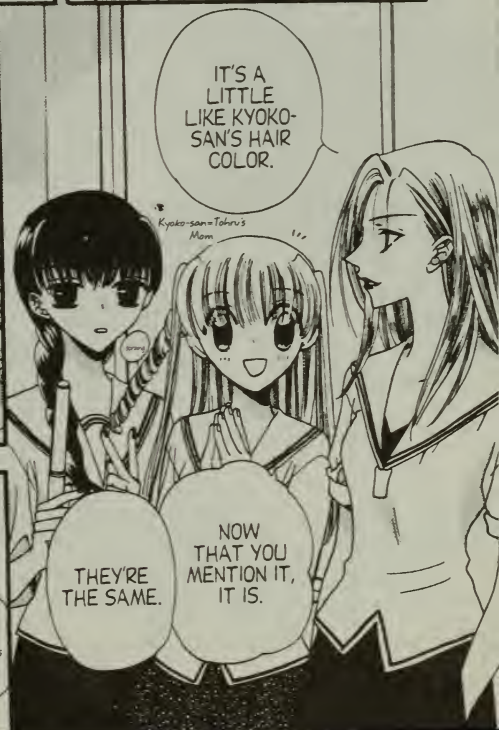
I FEEL
THE SAME
WAVES FROM
HIM AS I DO
FROM YUKI
SOHMA.

THESE WAVES
I SENSE...
WHAT DO
THEY MEAN?



SO
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
OTHERS...
ALMOST
INHUMAN...

Hey,
that's
rude.

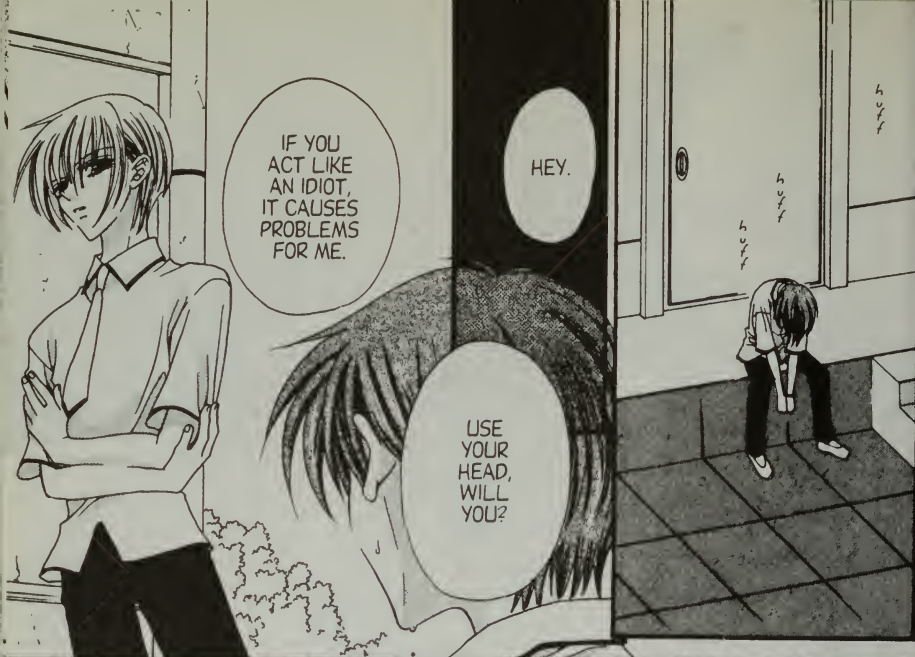


IT'S A
LITTLE
LIKE KYOKO-
SAN'S HAIR
COLOR.

Kyoko-san = Tokuru's
Mom

THEY'RE
THE SAME.

NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION IT,
IT IS.



IF YOU
ACT LIKE
AN IDIOT,
IT CAUSES
PROBLEMS
FOR ME.

HEY.

USE
YOUR
HEAD,
WILL
YOU?



I WANT
OUT OF
THE SOHMA
CAGE, EVEN
JUST A
LITTLE.

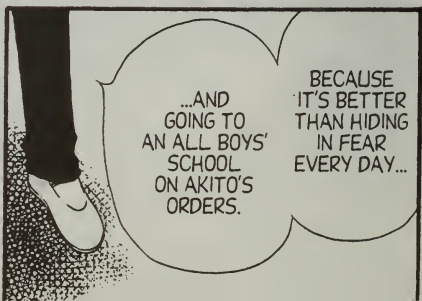
I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU WANT
SO BADLY TO
LIVE IN THAT
CAGE.



ARE YOU
INSANE?

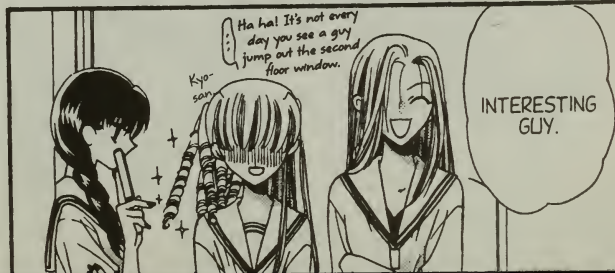
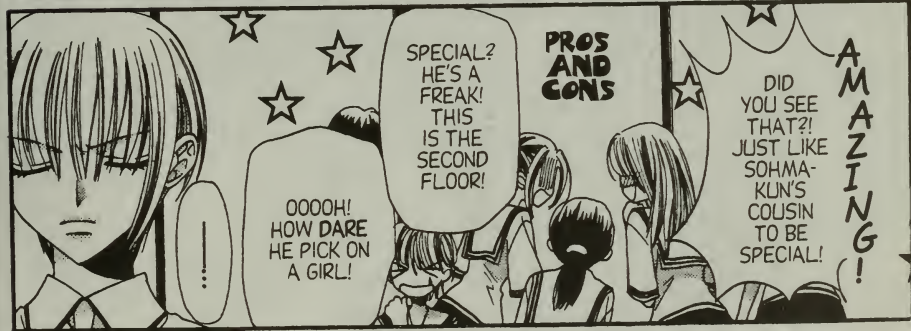
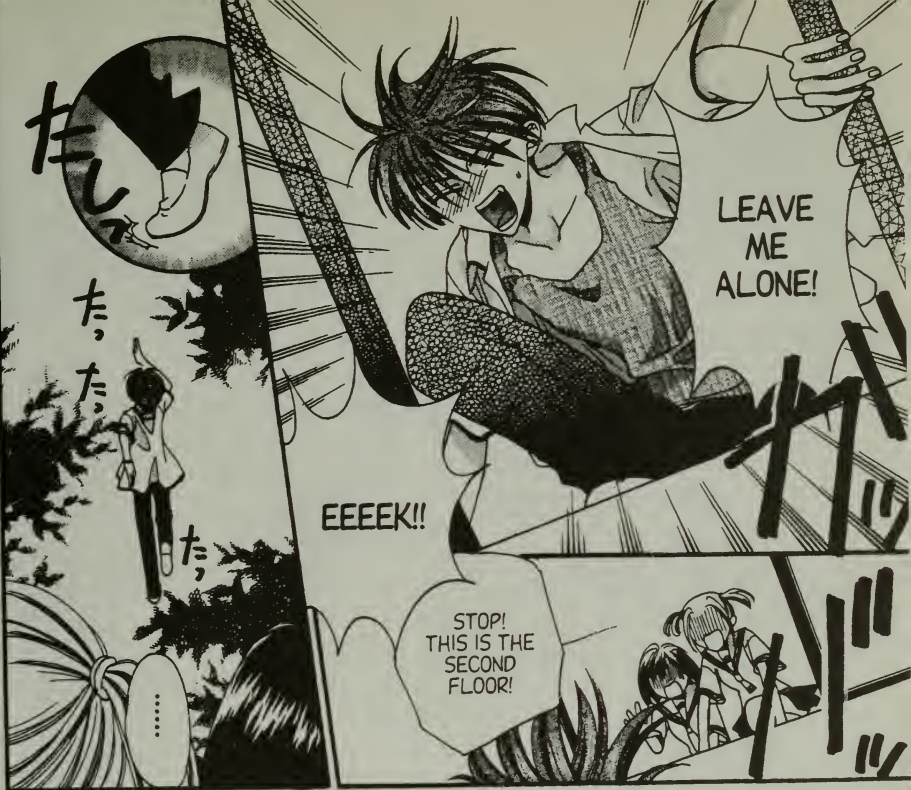
WHY
DO YOU
GO TO A
SCHOOL...

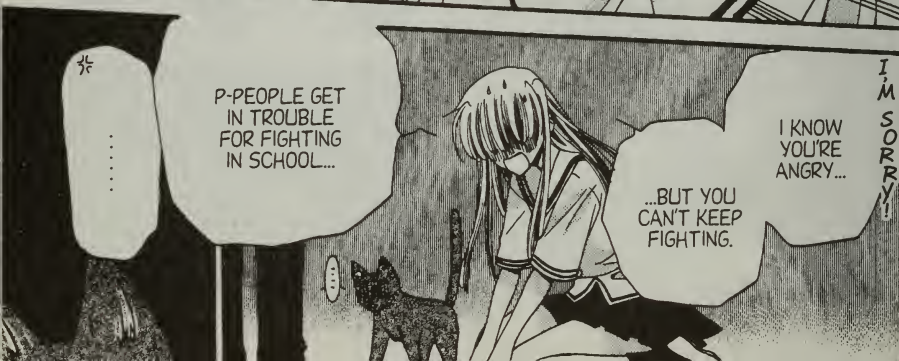
... THAT'S
CRAWLING
WITH
GIRLS?



...AND
GOING TO
AN ALL BOYS'
SCHOOL
ON AKITO'S
ORDERS.

BECAUSE
IT'S BETTER
THAN HIDING
IN FEAR
EVERY DAY...





...A RAT
WOULD NEVER
UNDERSTAND!

YOU...

I'LL
BEAT YOU
AND BECOME
ONE OF THE
ZODIAC!

I WON'T BE
SHUNNED
BY THE SOHMA
FAMILY ANY
LONGER!

ONE OF THE
ZODIAC...

Ah!
There
they
are!

THIS
TIME...

...I WILL
BEAT
YOU!



I MEANT
IT.

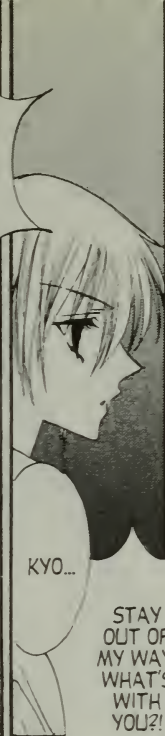
I REALLY
WAS
CRYING.

WHEN GOD AND THE
TWELVE ANIMALS
WERE ENJOYING THE
BANQUET ON THE
FAR OFF MOUNTAIN...



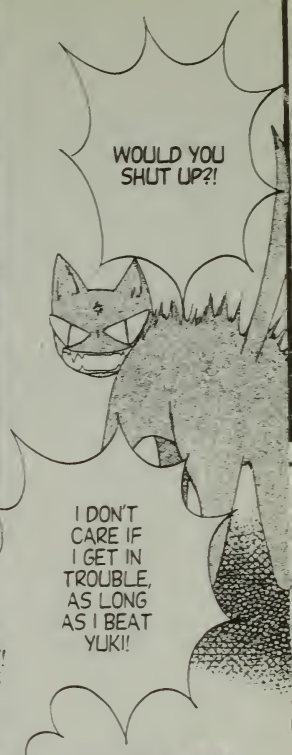


I CAN'T EVEN
STAND TO LOOK
AT YOU!



KYO...

STAY
OUT OF
MY WAY!
WHAT'S
WITH
YOU?!



WOULD YOU
SHUT UP?!

I DON'T
CARE IF
I GET IN
TROUBLE,
AS LONG
AS I BEAT
YUKI!



HIS
MAXIMUM
FURY!

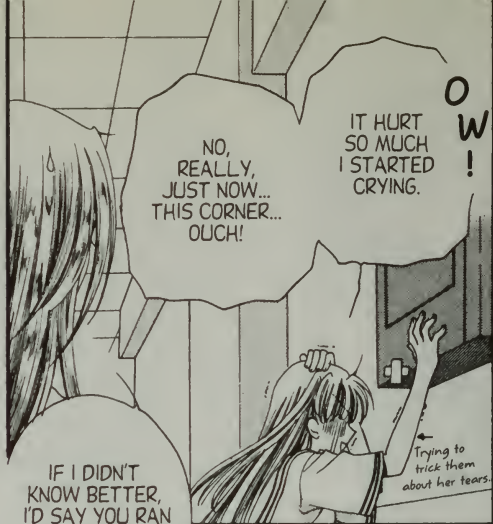




AND?

YOU CUT
YOUR FIRST
DAY OF
CLASS?

LET ME
GUESS. YOU
TRIED TO
FIGHT YUKI-
KUN AND
LOST. AGAIN.



NO,
REALLY,
JUST NOW...
THIS CORNER...
OUCH!

IT HURT
SO MUCH
I STARTED
CRYING.

O
W
!

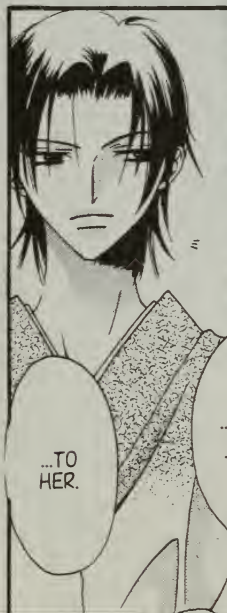
IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER,
I'D SAY YOU RAN
INTO IT ON
PURPOSE.

Trying to
trick them
about her tears.

Now, now,
don't
spoil her
cover-up



.....



...TO
HER.



I
ONLY
EVER
SAY...

...REALLY
MEAN
THINGS...



IT'S
ONLY THE
THIRD DAY.
THINK OF IT
AS MORE
TRAINING.

...I WANT
TO LEAVE
THIS HOUSE.

I...

POOR THING--
SLEEPING
SOUNDLY
UNAWARE OF
THE DECEIT.

...THE CAT
WAS DREAMING
OF A BANQUET
THE NEXT DAY
THAT WOULD
NEVER HAPPEN.

I LIKED
HIM SO MUCH
THAT IF THERE
WAS A YEAR OF THE
CAT CLUB I WOULD
HAVE JOINED.

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO
NOW?

BUT HE
HATES
ME.

Punishing herself

AH!
THERE
SHE IS.

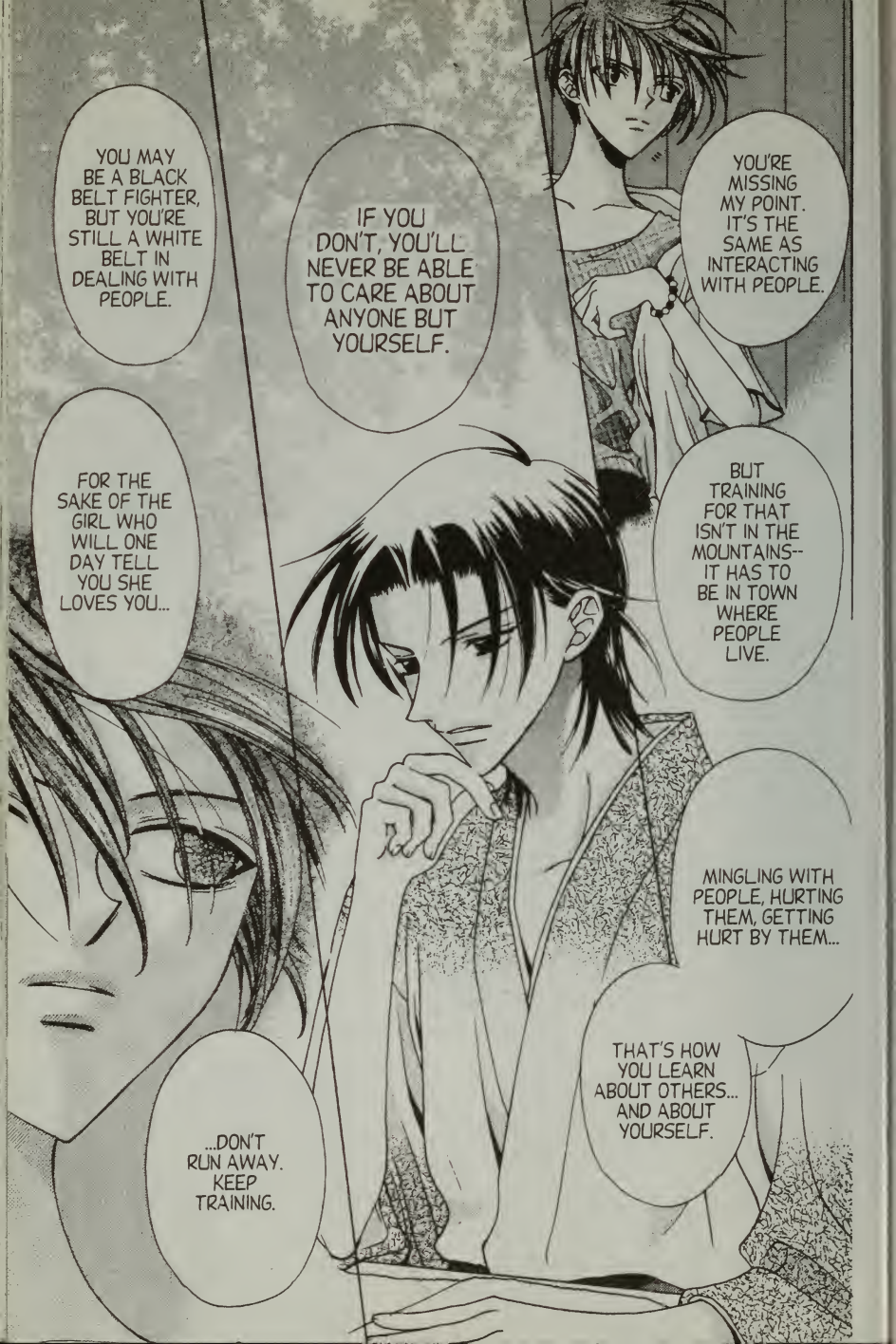
Oh!

I'M PICKING
UP TOHRU-
KUN'S WAVES!

Punishing

WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
THERE? CLASS
IS ABOUT TO--

TOHRUUUU!



YOU MAY
BE A BLACK
BELT FIGHTER,
BUT YOU'RE
STILL A WHITE
BELT IN
DEALING WITH
PEOPLE.

IF YOU
DON'T, YOU'LL
NEVER BE ABLE
TO CARE ABOUT
ANYONE BUT
YOURSELF.

YOU'RE
MISSING
MY POINT.
IT'S THE
SAME AS
INTERACTING
WITH PEOPLE.

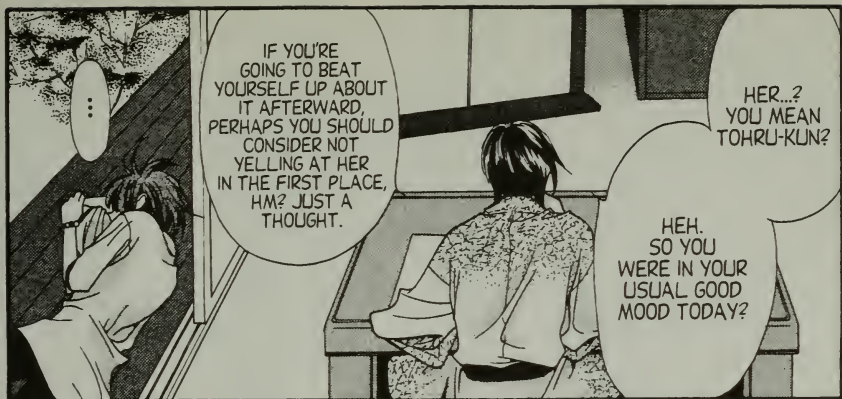
FOR THE
SAKE OF THE
GIRL WHO
WILL ONE
DAY TELL
YOU SHE
LOVES YOU...

BUT
TRAINING
FOR THAT
ISN'T IN THE
MOUNTAINS--
IT HAS TO
BE IN TOWN
WHERE
PEOPLE
LIVE.

MINGLING WITH
PEOPLE, HURTING
THEM, GETTING
HURT BY THEM...

THAT'S HOW
YOU LEARN
ABOUT OTHERS...
AND ABOUT
YOURSELF.

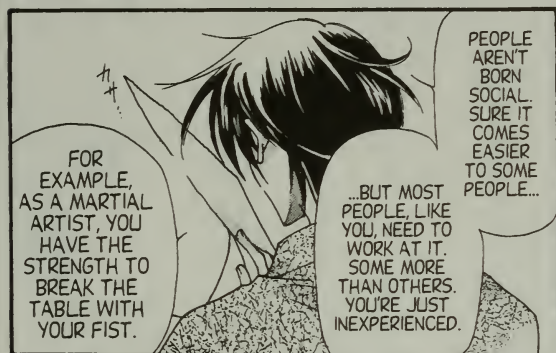
...DON'T
RUN AWAY.
KEEP
TRAINING.



IF YOU'RE GOING TO BEAT YOURSELF UP ABOUT IT AFTERWARD, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER NOT YELLING AT HER IN THE FIRST PLACE, HM? JUST A THOUGHT.

HER...? YOU MEAN TOHRU-KUN?

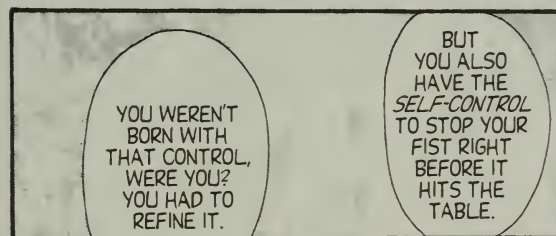
HEH. SO YOU WERE IN YOUR USUAL GOOD MOOD TODAY?



FOR EXAMPLE, AS A MARTIAL ARTIST, YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BREAK THE TABLE WITH YOUR FIST.

PEOPLE AREN'T BORN SOCIAL. SURE IT COMES EASIER TO SOME PEOPLE...

...BUT MOST PEOPLE, LIKE YOU, NEED TO WORK AT IT. SOME MORE THAN OTHERS. YOU'RE JUST INEXPERIENCED.



YOU WEREN'T BORN WITH THAT CONTROL, WERE YOU? YOU HAD TO REFINES IT.

BUT YOU ALSO HAVE THE SELF-CONTROL TO STOP YOUR FIST RIGHT BEFORE IT HITS THE TABLE.



THAT'S THE RESULT OF FIGHTING BEARS IN THE MOUNTAINS.

I DIDN'T FIGHT BEARS!



I CAN'T HELP IT.

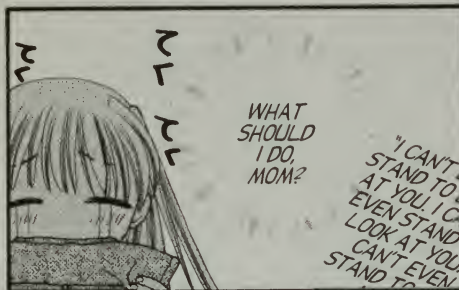
I'M...

...NOT MADE FOR INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE.



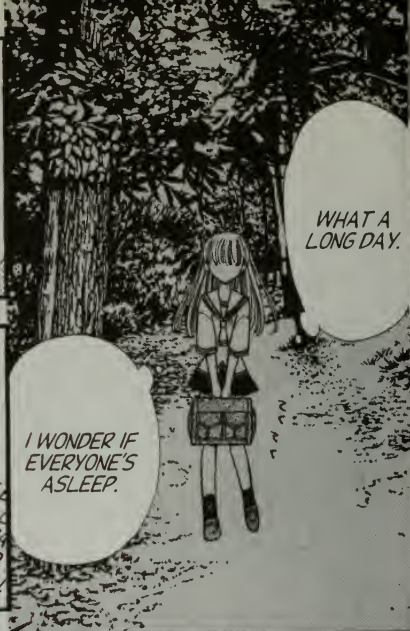
IS HE
STILL MAD?
DID HE LEAVE
THE HOUSE...?

I WONDER
IF KYO-KUN
SKIPPED
DINNER
AGAIN.



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO,
MOM?

"I CAN'T
STAND TO
LOOK AT
YOU. I CAN
EVEN STAND
LOOK AT YOU
CAN'T EVEN
STAND TO



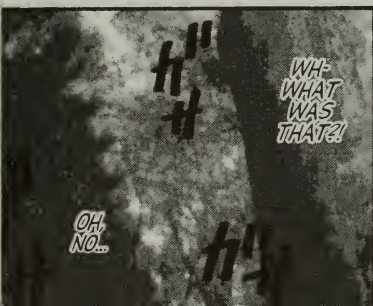
WHAT A
LONG DAY.

I WONDER IF
EVERYONE'S
ASLEEP.



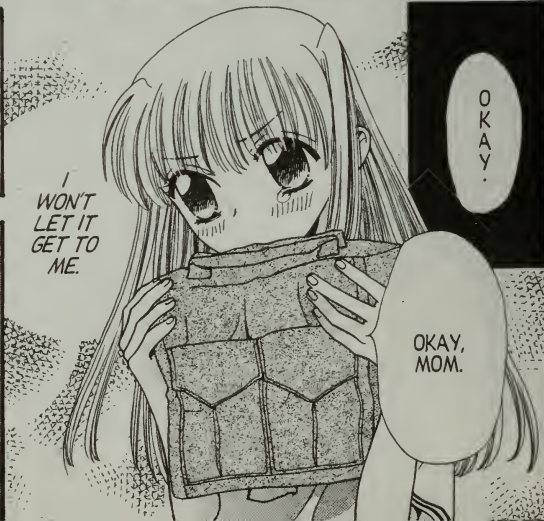
"YOU
SHOULD BE
YOURSELF."

"TOHRU."



WH-
WHAT
WAS
THAT?!

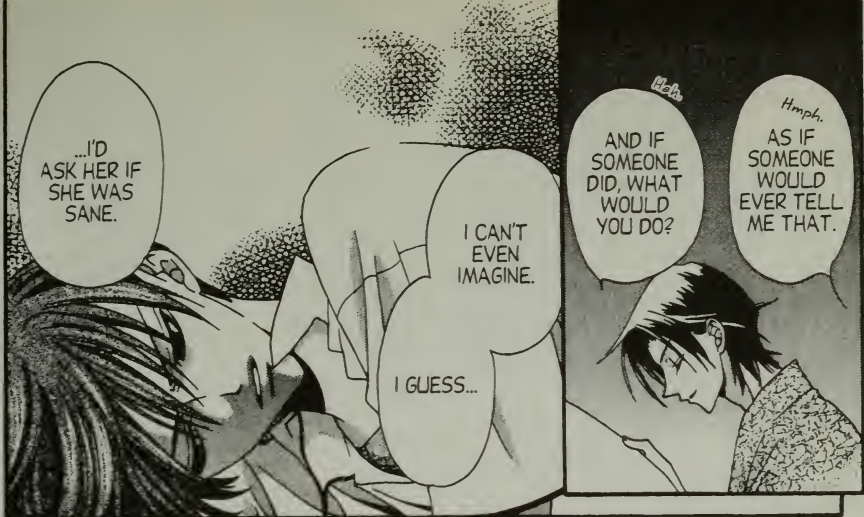
OH,
NO...



I
WON'T
LET IT
GET TO
ME.

O
K
A
Y
.

OKAY,
MOM.





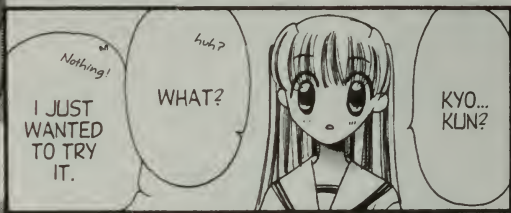
DON'T
CALL MY
NAME IF YOU'VE
GOT NOTHING
TO SAY!

O K A Y !



BEING
CALLED
"SAN"
MAKES ME
TWITCH.

JUST
CALL
ME
KYO.

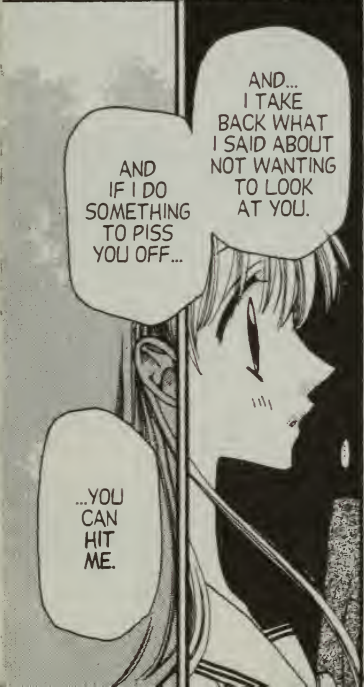


Nothing!

I JUST
WANTED
TO TRY
IT.

WHAT?

KYO...
KUN?



AND
IF I DO
SOMETHING
TO PISS
YOU OFF...

AND...
I TAKE
BACK WHAT
I SAID ABOUT
NOT WANTING
TO LOOK
AT YOU.

...YOU
CAN
HIT
ME.



YOU CAN
CALL MY
NAME EVEN
IF YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING
TO SAY.

AH.

OH...
NEVER
MIND.

IT'S
OKAY.



NOOO!

A
PERVERT?!

COULD
IT BE ONE
OF THOSE
GEEKS THEY
WARNED ME
ABOUT?



"NO!"
MAN, SHE
MUST REALLY
HATE ME. WAS
IT SOMETHING
I SAID?

They're
both
shouting
in their
heads.

HOW DO I
EXPLAIN THAT I
MISTOOK HIM
FOR A PERVERT?!
I JUST SCREAMED
"NO!" AT HIM
AND...!



STOP
IT.

UH, UM...
HOW DID
YOU... LIKE
SCHOOL, KYO-
SAN...?

BUT ENOUGH
ABOUT ME!
WERE YOU
TAKING A WALK,
KYO-SAN?

UH-uh-
uh-um...
I JUST
HIT YOU
WITH MY
BAG... BUT
I GUESS
YOU KNOW
THAT.

IT'S
TRUE.
I...

...I WANTED
TO BE BORN
IN THE YEAR
OF THE CAT.

HUH?

"IF A
GIRL
TOLD
YOU...

I MEAN,
UM, I...

...SHE
LOVED
YOU!"

...I WANT
TO BE
FRIENDS.

"AND IF
SOMEONE
DID, WHAT
WOULD
YOU DO?"

!!



...MAYBE HE WAS TRYING TO APOLOGIZE FOR HURTING ME. HA!

AND BACK THEN...

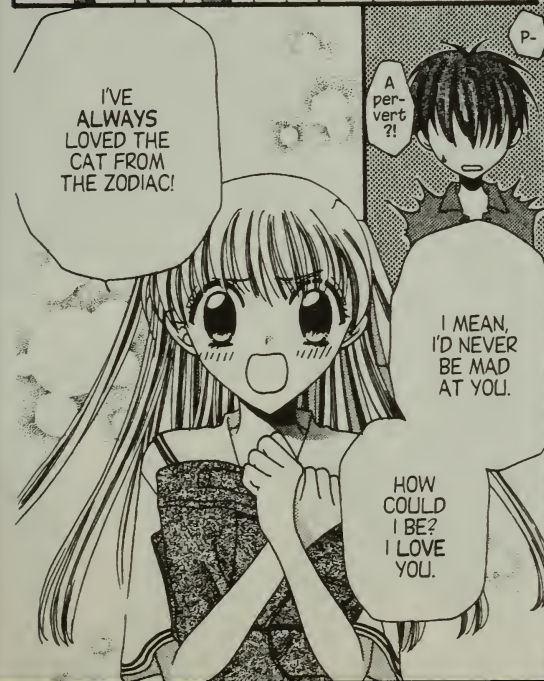
IS THAT WHY HE'S HERE?

Gasp



UH, UM...

OH-- I WASN'T MAD. I HIT YOU WITH MY BAG BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE A PERVERT!



I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE CAT FROM THE ZODIAC!

A per-vert ?!

P-

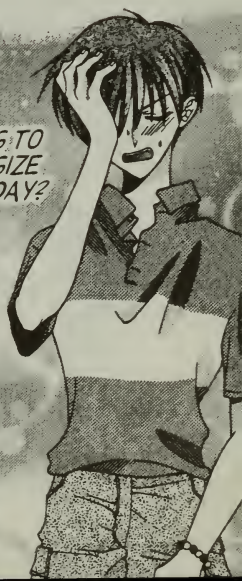
I MEAN, I'D NEVER BE MAD AT YOU.

HOW COULD I BE? I LOVE YOU.



IS HE...

...TRYING TO APOLOGIZE FOR TODAY?

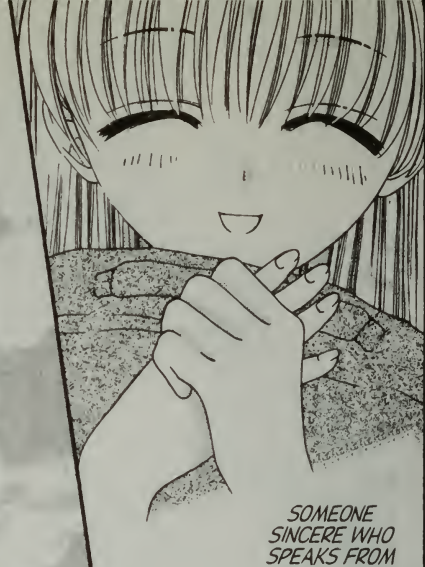




STOP THAT!
IT WASN'T
LIKE THAT!

KYO-KUN
AND
TOHRU
SITTING
IN A TREE...
K... I... S--

You know
how it goes.



*SOMEONE
SINCERE WHO
SPEAKS FROM
THE HEART.*

A GOOD PERSON.



OKAY.

YESTERDAY
WAS A
FLUKE.
IT WON'T
HAPPEN
AGAIN!
EVER!

SO, KYO-KUN...
I HEAR YOU
WALKED OUR
LITTLE TOHRU
HOME. HOW WAS
YOUR DATE?



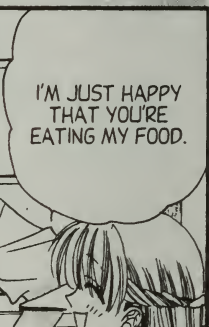
IT'S...



HUH?
UH...



DO YOU
LIKE IT?!



I'M JUST HAPPY
THAT YOU'RE
EATING MY FOOD.



...I'VE STARTED
TO UNDERSTAND
KYO-KUN.

HE'S MORE
AWKWARD THAN
MOST...

Let's
just go
home.

SOMEHOW...

...BUT
DEEP DOWN,
HE'S A NICE
PERSON.

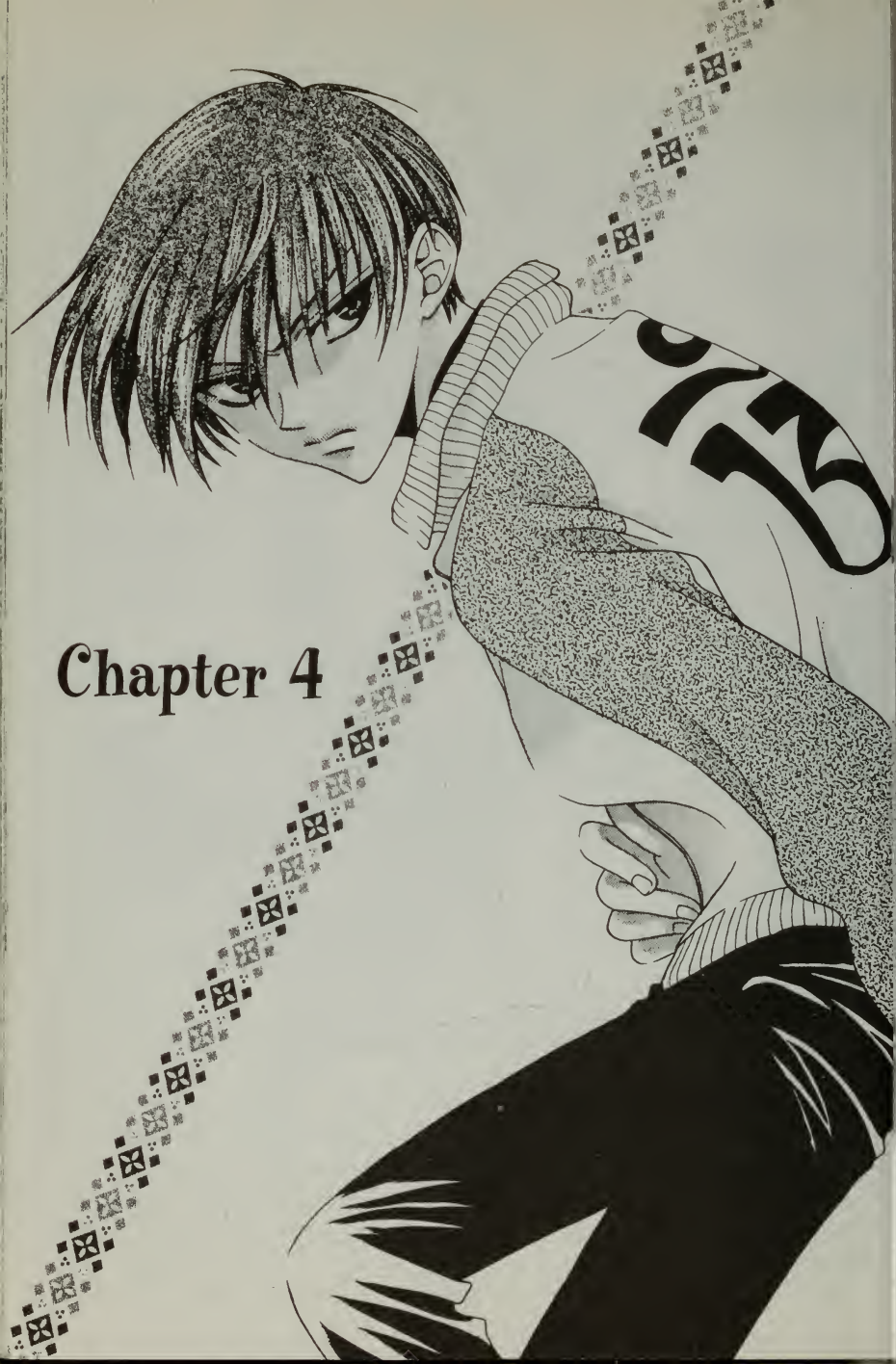


THAT'S
STU--!

IT'S
NOT THAT
GREAT.

BEING
A CAT.

Chapter 4





I WAS
JUST
LOOKING.

WELL, CUT
IT OUT!

WILL
YOU QUIT
STARING
AT ME?!

...WHAT?!

NOTHING.



I-it's
okay.
I timed
that
poorly.

HE...

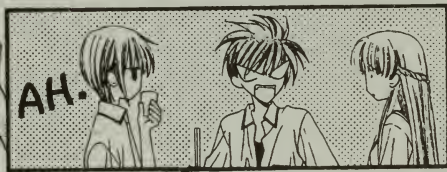
...MAKES
ME
SICK.

AND SO
KYO AND
I BECAME
FRIENDS...



IT
SUCKS!

YOU
DON'T
LIKE
IT?



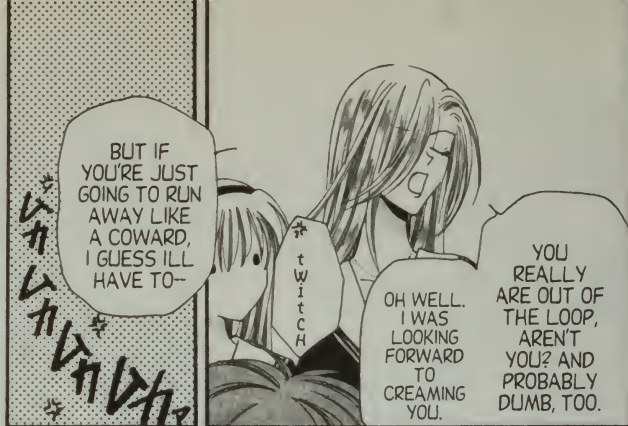
AH.

THINGS
SHOULD BE A
LOT HAPPIER
AROUND
THE SOHMA
HOUSE FROM
NOW ON.

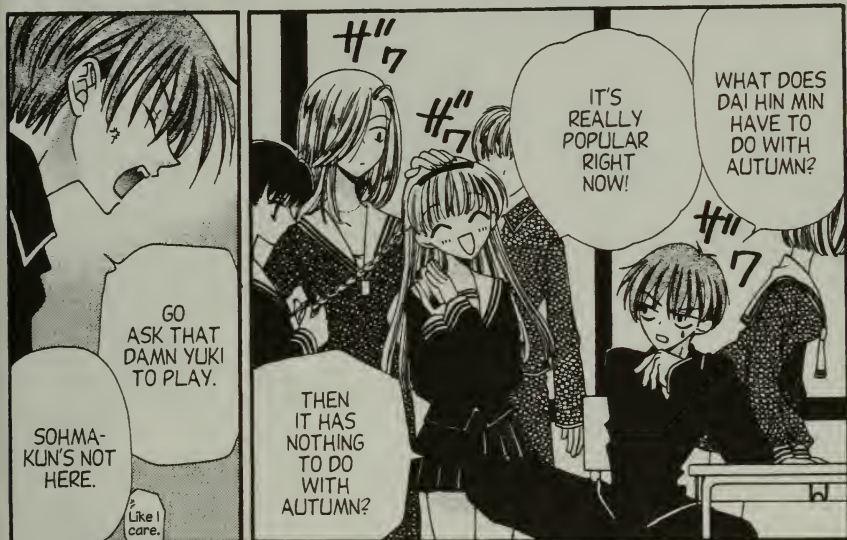
Well, hopefully--
but you never
can tell.

Number 5:

"How do you name your characters in video games?" I'm asked. Well, I usually put in my own name. I stopped for a while, but then I started doing it again. Of course, I say "my own name," but Natsuki Takaya is a pen name (laugh). If it was my real name, then, yeah, I might think it was a little embarrassing. I don't think it's bad though. Because it's my game to enjoy my own way. So now, when I become friends with people in the game "Tokyo Friend," they call me "Takayan."

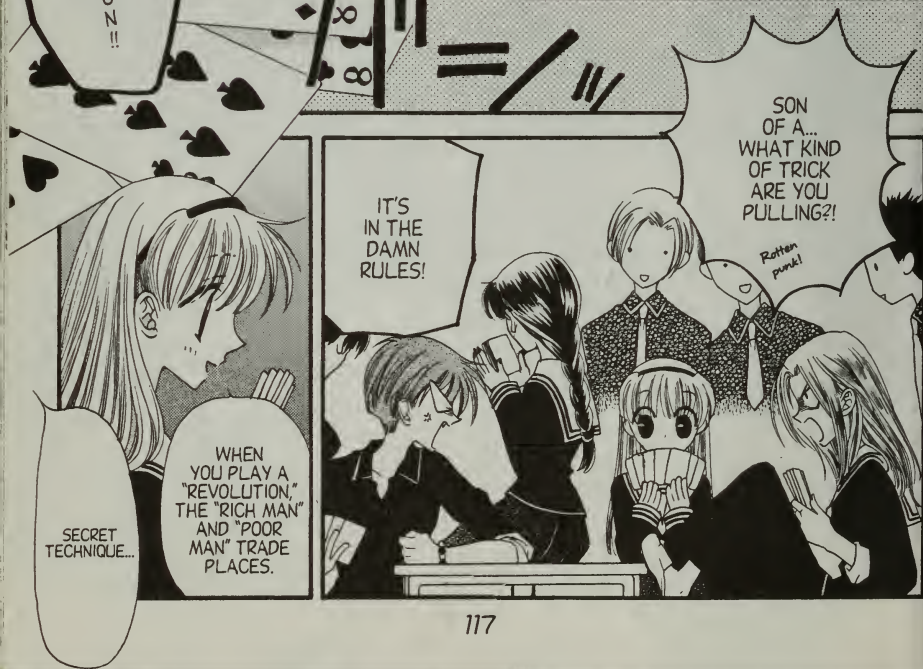
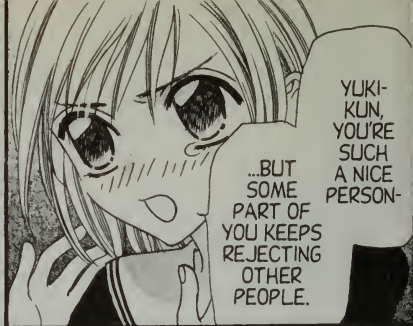


For rules on how to play Dai Hin Min visit www.TOKYOPOP.com and click on Fruits Basket!



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 3.

When I drew Uo-chan, people asked me, "Sensei, did you used to be a Yankee?" Well, I wasn't a Yankee, but I wasn't exactly an honor student, either. Most people don't understand about Hana-chan's "poison waves," either. Apparently there's a video game called "Pange Reef" with poison waves, but I didn't play it until after I'd started the manga.





Yuki-kun...!

SO I CAN'T
ANSWER
YOUR--

NO!
I DON'T WANT
TO HEAR IT!

Step

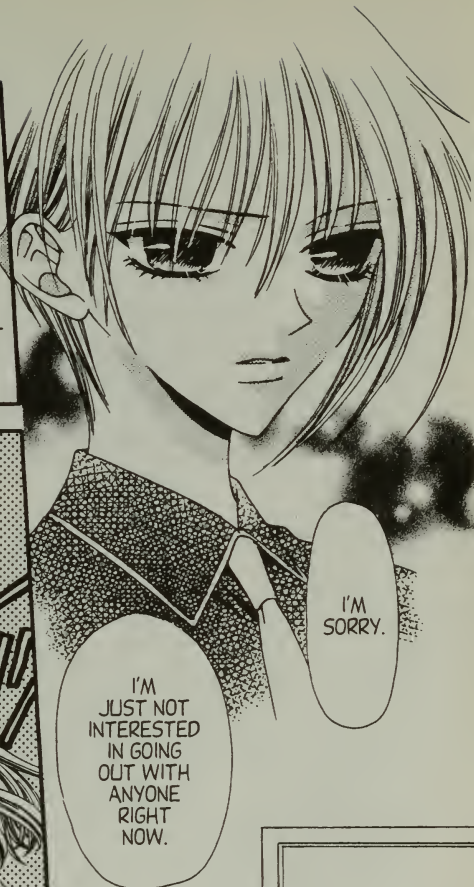
!!



NO...

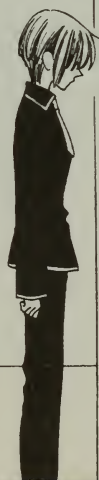
UM...
I...

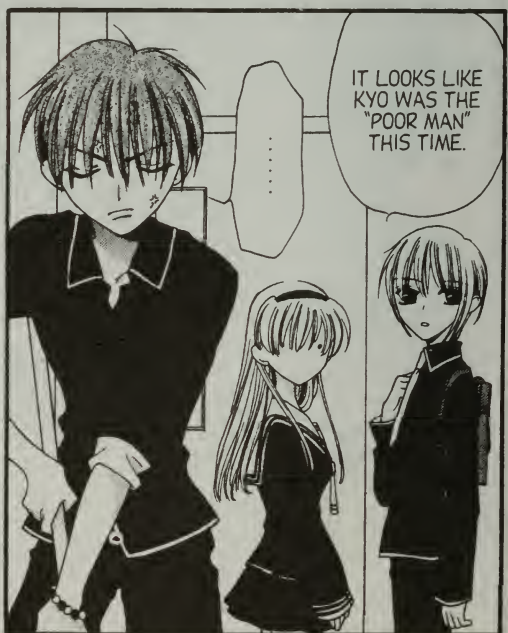
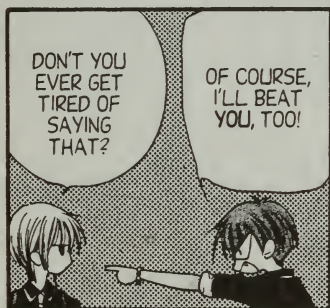
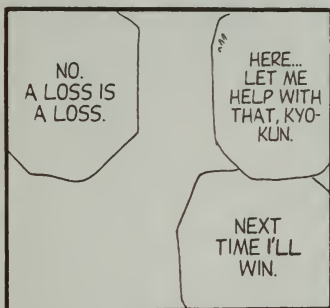
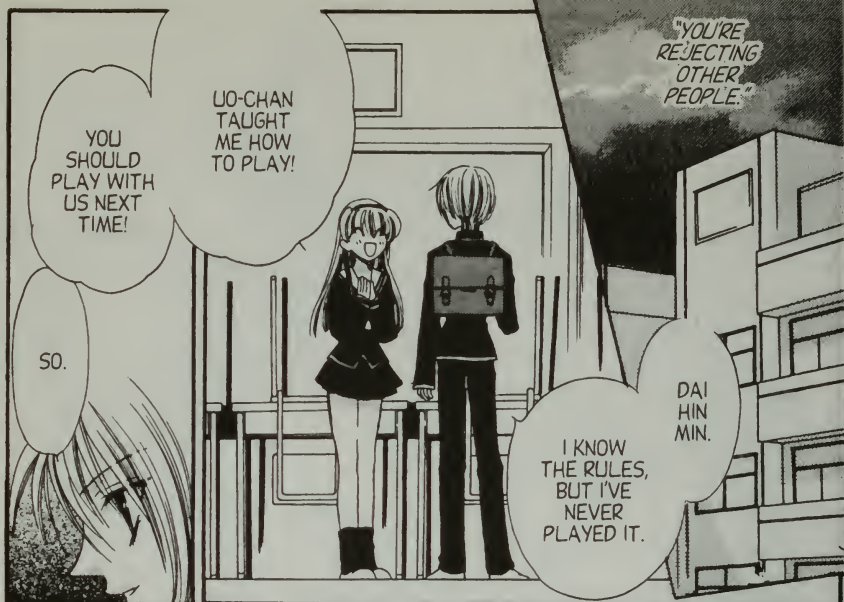
.....
AH!

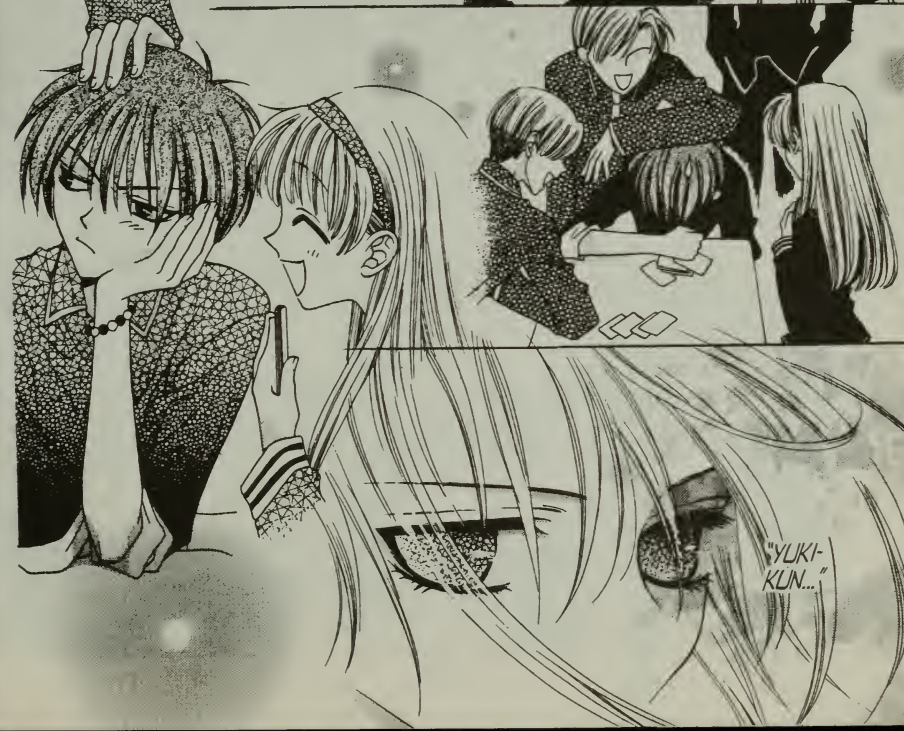
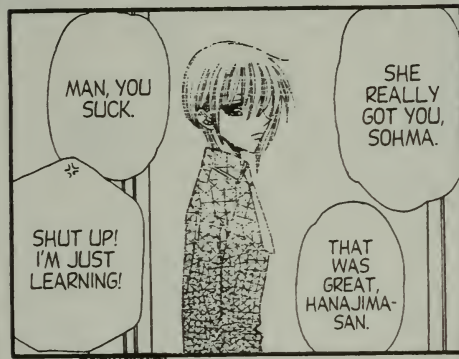


I'M
SORRY.

I'M
JUST NOT
INTERESTED
IN GOING
OUT WITH
ANYONE
RIGHT
NOW.









BUT
FIGHTING
IS BAD. I'M
SURE OF
THAT.

YOU
BASTARD—
I'LL TAKE
YOU
DOWN!

THAT
WOULD BE
WONDERFUL
FOR THE
CAT!

I DON'T
KNOW
HOW THAT
WOULD
WORK,
BUT...

...THE CAT
COULD
BE PART OF
THE CHINESE
ZODIAC AFTER
ALL?

UM,
KYO-
KUN...

SAY YOUR
PRAYERS,
HEARTLESS
RAT!

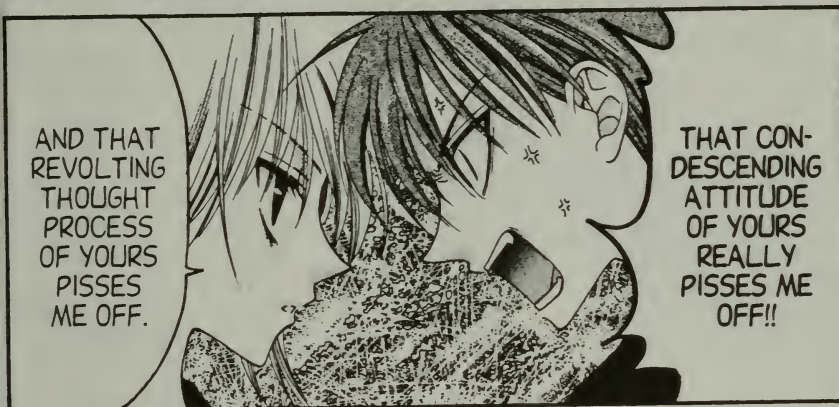




IT'S
SO UNFAIR
THAT I KEEP
HAVING TO
TAKE ABUSE
JUST BECAUSE
YOU CAN'T
MEET YOUR
GOALS.

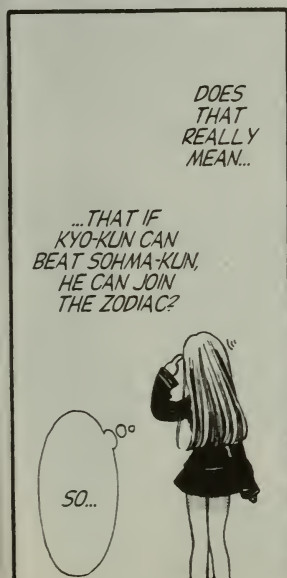
BEATING
YOU IS MY
VOCATION!!

IT'S MY
GOAL IN
LIFE!



AND THAT
REVOLTING
THOUGHT
PROCESS
OF YOURS
PISSES
ME OFF.

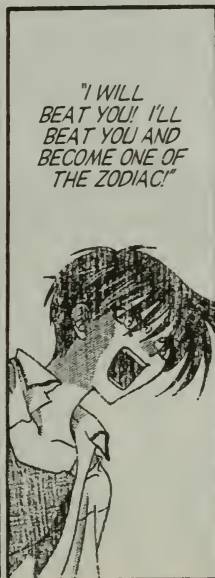
THAT CON-
DESCENDING
ATTITUDE
OF YOURS
REALLY
PISSES ME
OFF!!



DOES
THAT
REALLY
MEAN...

...THAT IF
KYO-KUN CAN
BEAT SOHMA-KUN,
HE CAN JOIN
THE ZODIAC?

SO...

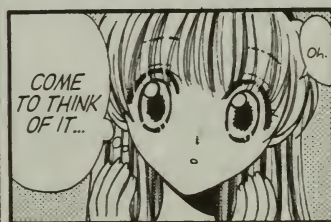


"I WILL
BEAT YOU! I'LL
BEAT YOU AND
BECOME ONE OF
THE ZODIAC!"



TH-THEY'RE
FIGHTING
AGAIN...

THIS GOES
DEEPER THAN
THE CAT
AND RAT...

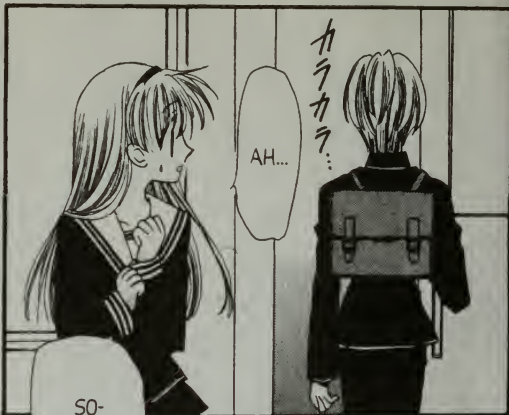


COME
TO THINK
OF IT...

Oh...

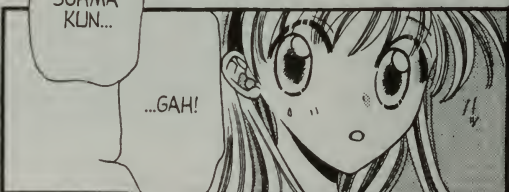


WHY
CAN'T
I BEAT
HIM?



AH...

SO-
SOHMA-
KUN...



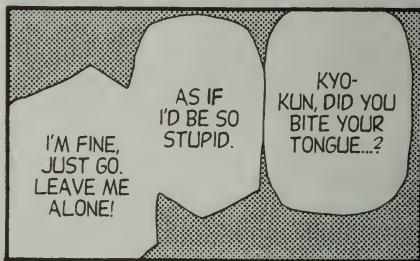
...GAH!



I KEEP
GETTING
BEATEN.

I MUST
SEEM SO
PATHETIC.

Sigh



I'M FINE,
JUST GO.
LEAVE ME
ALONE!

AS IF
I'D BE SO
STUPID.

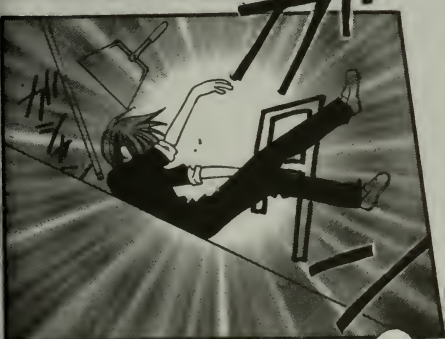
KYO-
KUN, DID YOU
BITE YOUR
TONGUE...?



...NO... I
MEAN...

AH...

WHY...
DO YOU...?

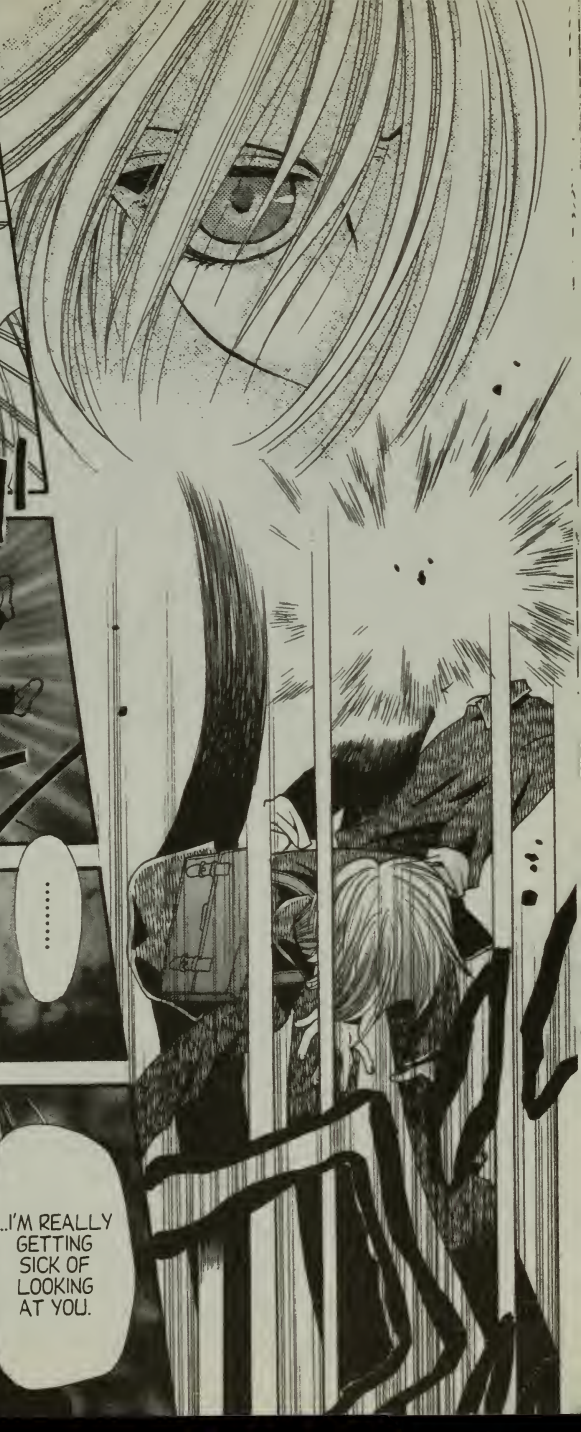


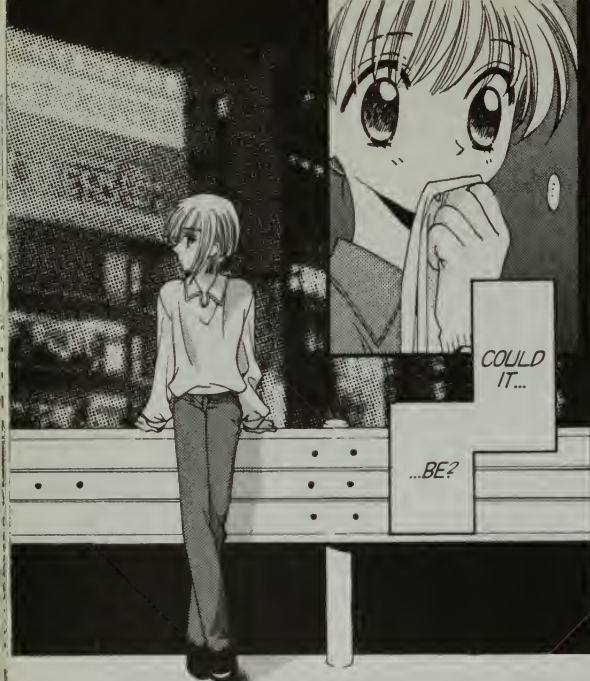
YOU
KNOW...

.....



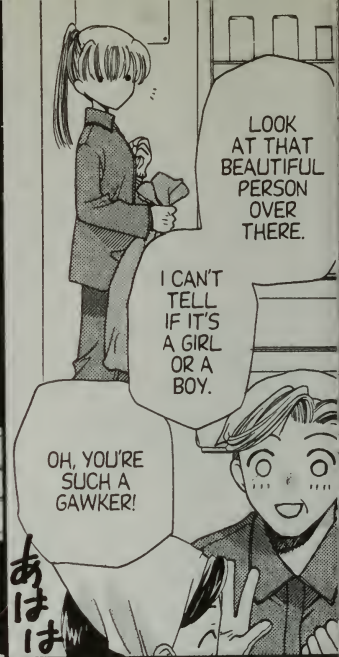
...I'M REALLY
GETTING
SICK OF
LOOKING
AT YOU.





COULD
IT...

...BE?

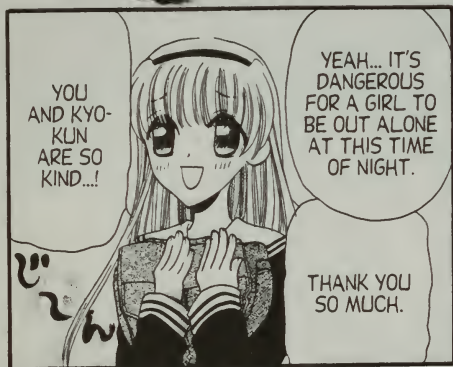


LOOK
AT THAT
BEAUTIFUL
PERSON
OVER
THERE.

I CAN'T
TELL
IF IT'S
A GIRL
OR A
BOY.

OH, YOU'RE
SUCH A
GAWKER!

あはは

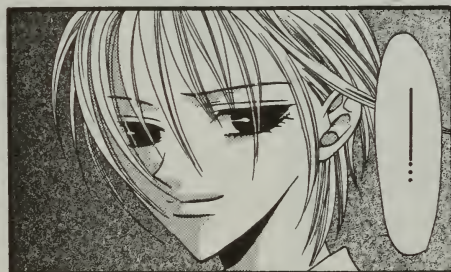


YOU
AND KYO-
KUN
ARE SO
KIND...!

YEAH... IT'S
DANGEROUS
FOR A GIRL TO
BE OUT ALONE
AT THIS TIME
OF NIGHT.

THANK YOU
SO MUCH.

じゅん



...



It is!

SOHMA-
KUN...!

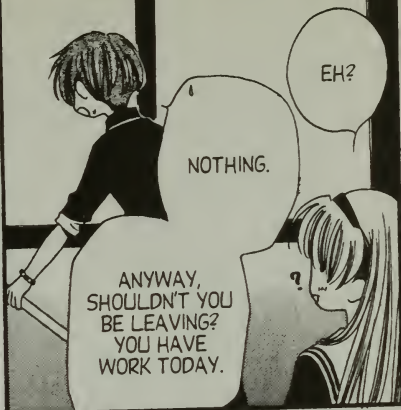
Y-YOU
CAME ALL THE
WAY HERE TO
PICK ME UP?!

HEY... YOU
MUST BE
TIRED.



humpf
MUST
BE IN
A BAD
MOOD.

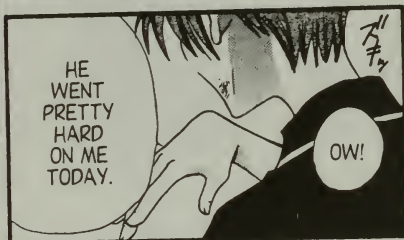
"I'M
REALLY
GETTING
SICK OF
LOOKING
AT YOU."



NOTHING.

EH?

ANYWAY,
SHOULDN'T YOU
BE LEAVING?
YOU HAVE
WORK TODAY.



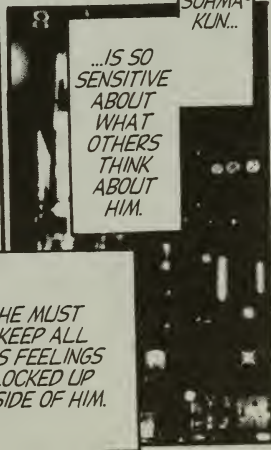
HE
WENT
PRETTY
HARD
ON ME
TODAY.

OW!



GOOD
WORK.

HEY,
OVER HERE,
TANIGAWA-
SAN.



SOHMA-
KUN...

...IS SO
SENSITIVE
ABOUT
WHAT
OTHERS
THINK
ABOUT
HIM.

HE MUST
KEEP ALL
HIS FEELINGS
LOCKED UP
INSIDE OF HIM.

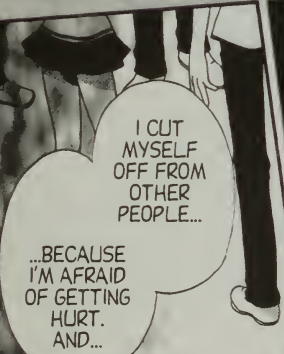


I ALWAYS
WANTED
TO HAVE A
"NORMAL" LIFE,
SURROUNDED
BY "NORMAL"
PEOPLE.

SO I APPLIED
TO A CO-ED
SCHOOL AND
LEFT HOME.

WHEN
I WAS AT
THE MAIN
HOUSE...

...IT FELT
LIKE I WAS
IN A CAGE,
ALWAYS BEING
WATCHED
BY THE
FAMILY AND
AKITO.



I CUT
MYSELF
OFF FROM
OTHER
PEOPLE...

...BECAUSE
I'M AFRAID
OF GETTING
HURT.
AND...

I DON'T
MEAN
TO TURN
THEM
AWAY.



BUT
SOME
PART OF
ME CAN'T
DEAL WITH
PEOPLE.

I JUST
WOUND UP
IN ANOTHER
SOHMA
HOUSE.

BUT I
COULDN'T
GET OUT OF
THE CAGE
AFTER
ALL.



AND
I STILL
CAN'T
ASSOCIATE
WITH
"NORMAL"
PEOPLE.

Stop
flirting and
go home,
you kids!

...SOMETHING
WEIGHING
ON YOUR MIND,
YOU CAN
TALK TO ME,
OKAY?

SOHMA-KUN,
UM, IF
THERE'S
EVER...

AH...

HUH?

WELL,
SHALL
WE GO?

I'M A
PRETTY
—

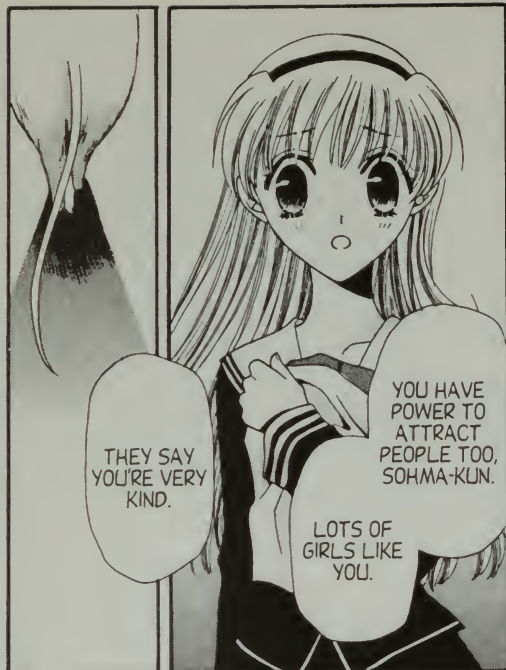
THEY
SAY IT'S
GOOD LUCK
TO TELL
SOMEONE
ABOUT A BAD
DREAM.

I-IF IT'S
ALL RIGHT,
PLEASE
TELL ME
WHAT'S
ON YOUR
MIND.

NO, IT'S MY
FAULT FOR
HAVING THIS
"CONDITION."

I'M A
PRETTY
GOOD
LISTENER.

BUT THEN,
I'LL PROBABLY
JUST MAKE
YOUR PROBLEMS
WORSE.



THEY SAY
YOU'RE VERY
KIND.

YOU HAVE
POWER TO
ATTRACT
PEOPLE TOO,
SOHMA-KUN.

LOTS OF
GIRLS LIKE
YOU.

WHAT
DOES THAT
MAKE ME,
WHO WANTS
TO RUN
AWAY FROM IT
ALL?

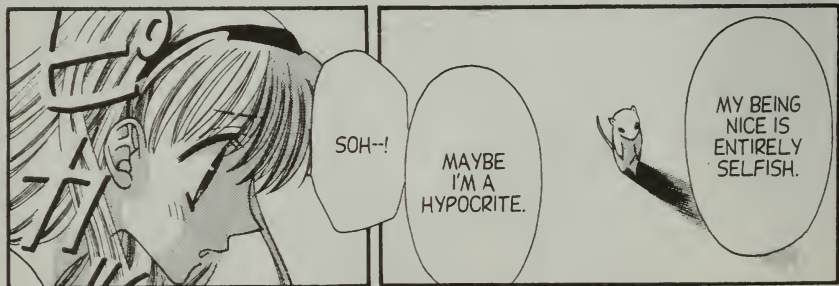
I
WONDER.



IT'S
THE SAME AS
GIVING SOMEONE
CANDY BECAUSE
YOU WANT TO
BUY THEIR
FRIENDSHIP.

...BECAUSE
I WANT
PEOPLE TO
LIKE ME.

I'M
ONLY
BEING
NICE...



SOH--!

MAYBE
I'M A
HYPOCRITE.

MY BEING
NICE IS
ENTIRELY
SELFISH.



THAT'S
WHY
I GET
ANNOYED...

...WISHED I
COULD BE
LIKE THAT
TOO.

...WHEN
I LOOK
AT KYO, WHO
WANTS TO BE
A SOHMA.



EVEN
IF HE CAN'T
JOIN THE
ZODIAC...

...HE
MIGHT BE
ABLE TO
INTERACT
WITH NORMAL
PEOPLE AND
HAVE A
NORMAL
LIFE.



THAT'S
WHY...

...I'VE
ALWAYS...



...BECAUSE
I'M LIKE
THIS.



THE
HESITATION
AND FEAR
WON'T GO
AWAY.

BUT...
KYO IS
DIFFERENT.
HE MIGHT BE
EXTREMELY
SHY...

...BUT IF HE
GETS USED TO
BEING AROUND
PEOPLE, I THINK
HE'S THE TYPE
THAT ATTRACTS
OTHERS...THAT
HAS MANY
FRIENDS.



SOHMA...

...KUN!

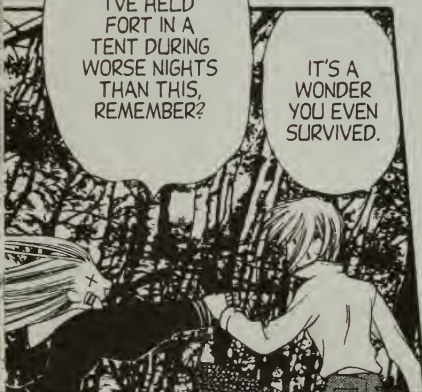


When it rains, I get so... At that moment, Kyo was sleeping. ...tired...



I'M OKAY!

HONDA-SAN! IT'S DANGEROUS!



I'VE HELD FORT IN A TENT DURING WORSE NIGHTS THAN THIS, REMEMBER?

IT'S A WONDER YOU EVEN SURVIVED.



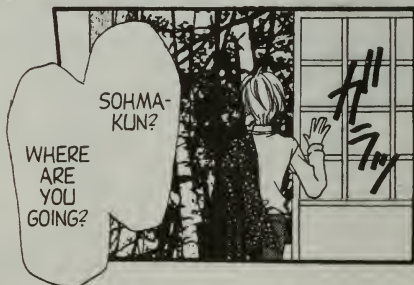
A TYPHOON? THAT'S OUT OF SEASON.

THE LAST OUTBURST OF A WANING SUMMER--



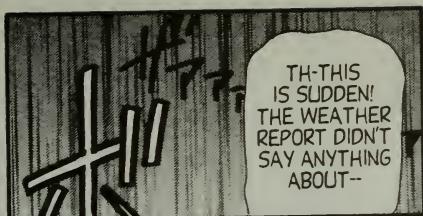
YOU'RE IN THE WAY!

AND HERE I WAS WAXING POETIC.

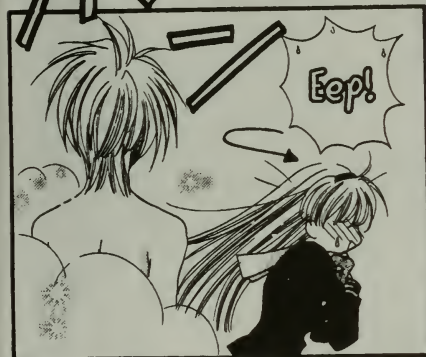


SOHMA-KUN?

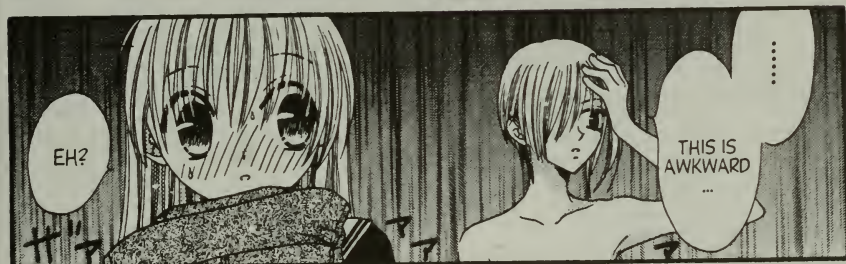
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



TH-THIS IS SUDDEN!
THE WEATHER
REPORT DIDN'T
SAY ANYTHING
ABOUT--

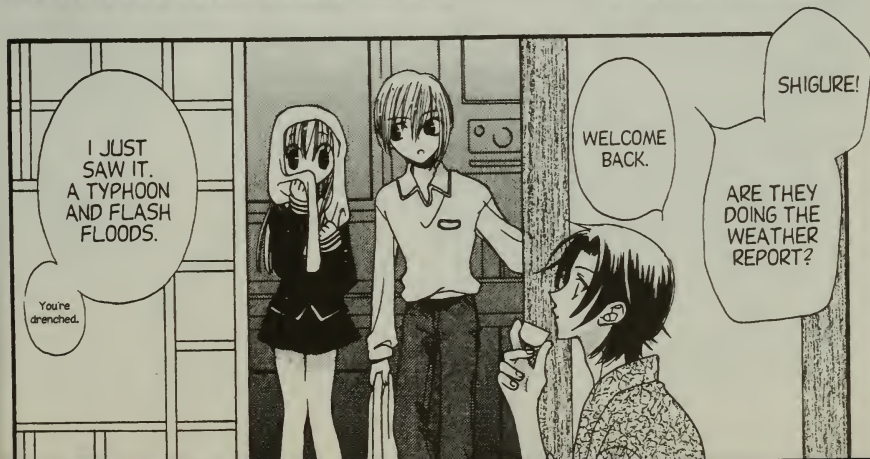


Eep!



EH?

THIS IS
AWKWARD
...



I JUST
SAW IT.
A TYPHOON
AND FLASH
FLOODS.

You're
drenched.

WELCOME
BACK.

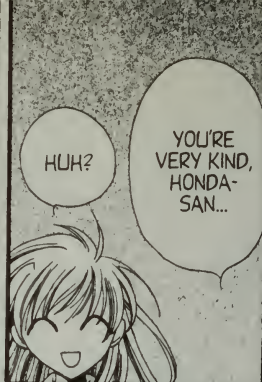
SHIGURE!

ARE THEY
DOING THE
WEATHER
REPORT?



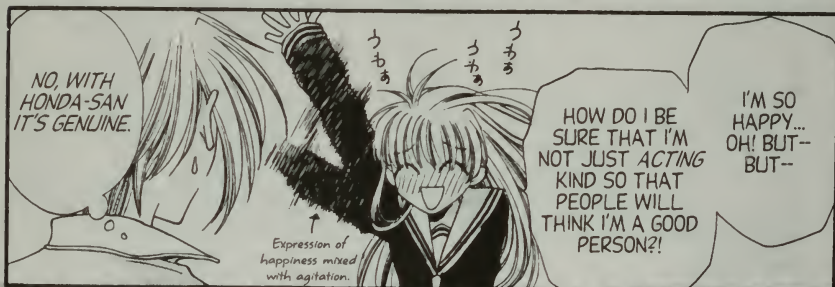
THAT'S
THE FIRST
TIME ANYONE'S
EVER TOLD
ME THAT!

EH...
EEHH?!
BUT...!



HUH?

YOU'RE
VERY KIND,
HONDA-
SAN...

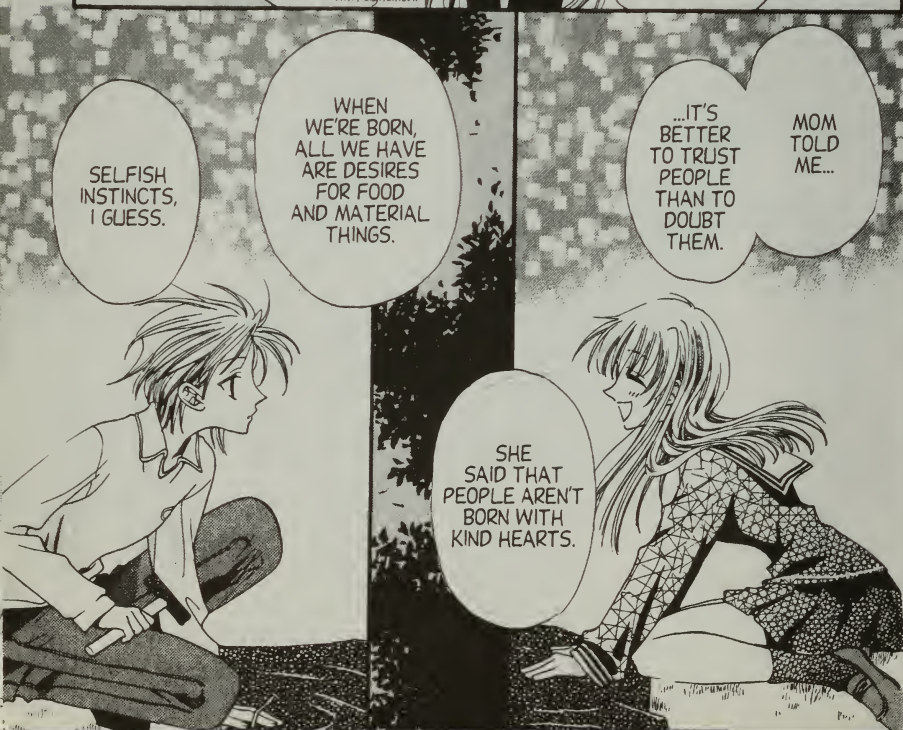


NO, WITH
HONDA-SAN
IT'S GENUINE.

↑
Expression of
happiness mixed
with agitation.

HOW DO I BE
SURE THAT I'M
NOT JUST *ACTING*
KIND SO THAT
PEOPLE WILL
THINK I'M A GOOD
PERSON?!

I'M SO
HAPPY...
OH! BUT--
BUT--



SELFISH
INSTINCTS,
I GUESS.

WHEN
WE'RE BORN,
ALL WE HAVE
ARE DESIRES
FOR FOOD
AND MATERIAL
THINGS.

...IT'S
BETTER
TO TRUST
PEOPLE
THAN TO
DOUBT
THEM.

MOM
TOLD
ME...

SHE
SAID THAT
PEOPLE AREN'T
BORN WITH
KIND HEARTS.

A
VEGETABLE
GARDEN,
ACTUALLY.

A FARM?

SOHMA-KUN,
IS SOMETHING
WRONG?

AH.

?!
SOHMA-
KUN, YOU
DID THIS?!

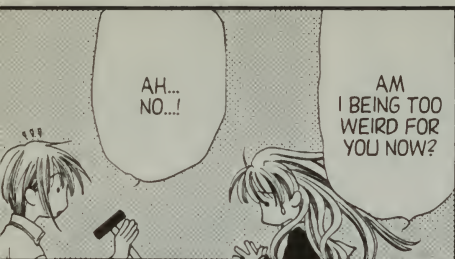
I GET IT!
YOU CAME HERE
TO PROTECT
YOUR BASE FROM
THE TYPHOON!

IT'S WONDER-
FUL!

PLEASE
LET ME
HELP!

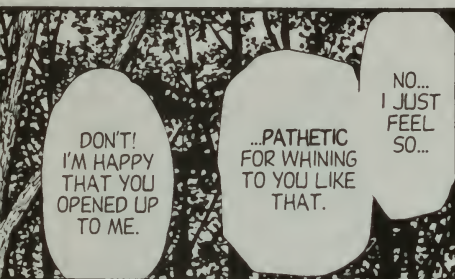
YES.

THIS
IS MY
SECRET
BASE.



AH...
NO...!

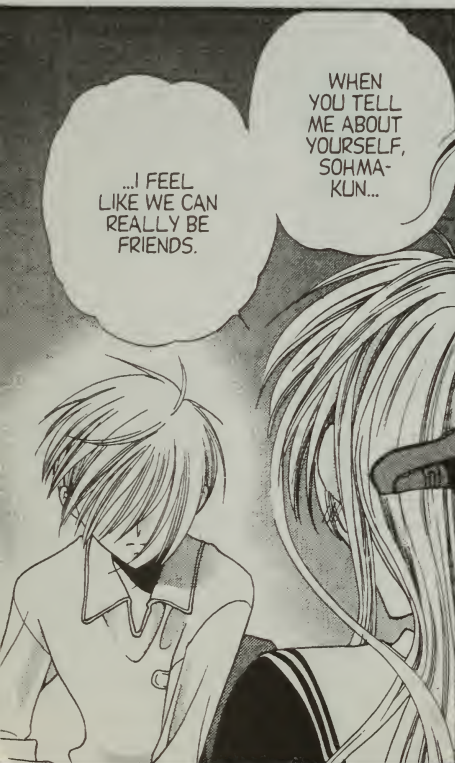
AM
I BEING TOO
WEIRD FOR
YOU NOW?



DON'T!
I'M HAPPY
THAT YOU
OPENED UP
TO ME.

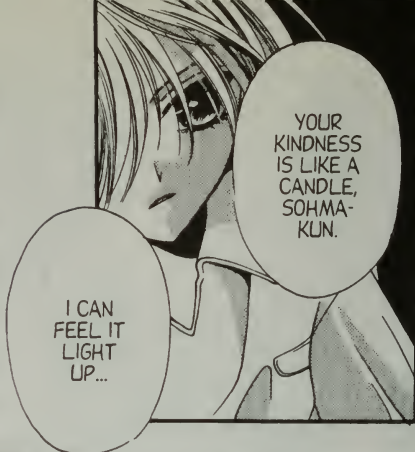
...PATHETIC
FOR WHINING
TO YOU LIKE
THAT.

NO...
I JUST
FEEL
SO...



...I FEEL
LIKE WE CAN
REALLY BE
FRIENDS.

WHEN
YOU TELL
ME ABOUT
YOURSELF,
SOHMA-
KUN...



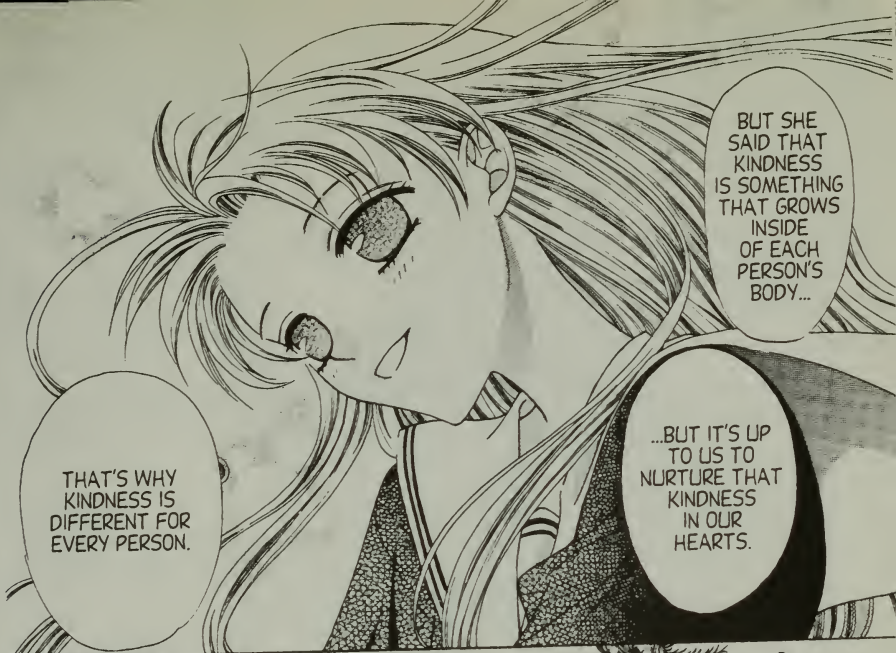
YOUR
KINDNESS
IS LIKE A
CANDLE,
SOHMA-
KUN.

I CAN
FEEL IT
LIGHT
UP...



...AND
I JUST
WANT TO
SMILE.

IT'S
THAT
KIND OF
KINDNESS.



THAT'S WHY
KINDNESS IS
DIFFERENT FOR
EVERY PERSON.

BUT SHE
SAID THAT
KINDNESS
IS SOMETHING
THAT GROWS
INSIDE
OF EACH
PERSON'S
BODY...

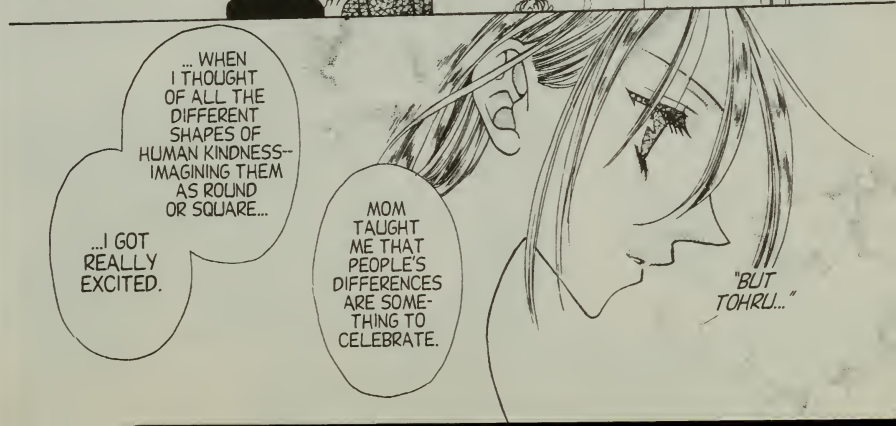
...BUT IT'S UP
TO US TO
NURTURE THAT
KINDNESS
IN OUR
HEARTS.



...SO IT'S EASY
TO MISUNDERSTAND
WHEN OTHERS ARE
TRYING TO BE KIND
TO YOU."

"BUT
KINDNESS IS
SOMETHING MADE
INDIVIDUALLY BY
EACH PERSON..."

"WE'RE ALL
BORN WITH
SELFISH DESIRES,
SO WE CAN ALL
RELATE TO THOSE
FEELINGS IN
OTHERS."

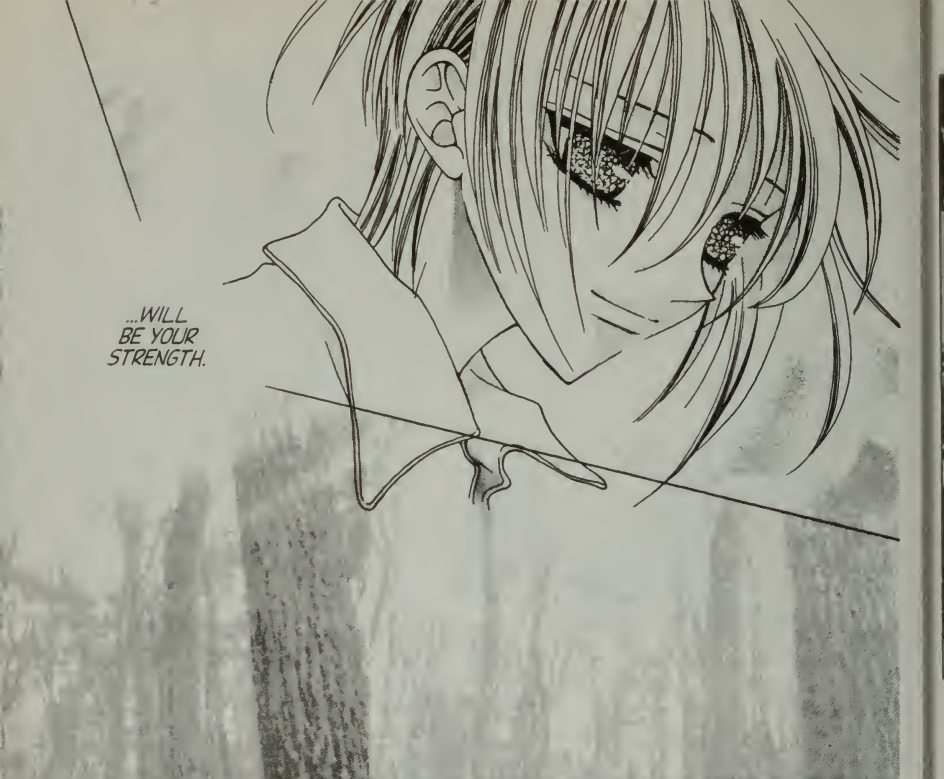


... WHEN
I THOUGHT
OF ALL THE
DIFFERENT
SHAPES OF
HUMAN KINDNESS--
IMAGINING THEM
AS ROUND
OR SQUARE...

...I GOT
REALLY
EXCITED.

MOM
TAUGHT
ME THAT
PEOPLE'S
DIFFERENCES
ARE SOME-
THING TO
CELEBRATE.

"BUT
TOHRLU..."



...WILL
BE YOUR
STRENGTH.

L
E
E
K
S
!

THE
LEEKS
MAY BE
READY.

IS ANYTHING
READY TO
HARVEST?

YES, BUT
AT WHAT
COST?

WE
PROTECTED
IT TO THE
VERY END!

It seems it's actually better to harvest them in the second year.

HONDA-
SAN.

LEEKS,
LEEKS
...

I'M SORRY!
I'LL KEEP
PROTECTING
YOUR BASE!

ふはあ、

NO,
NOT
AT...

I'M
SORRY.
I'M BEING
RUDE...

...
ALL
...

ふはあ

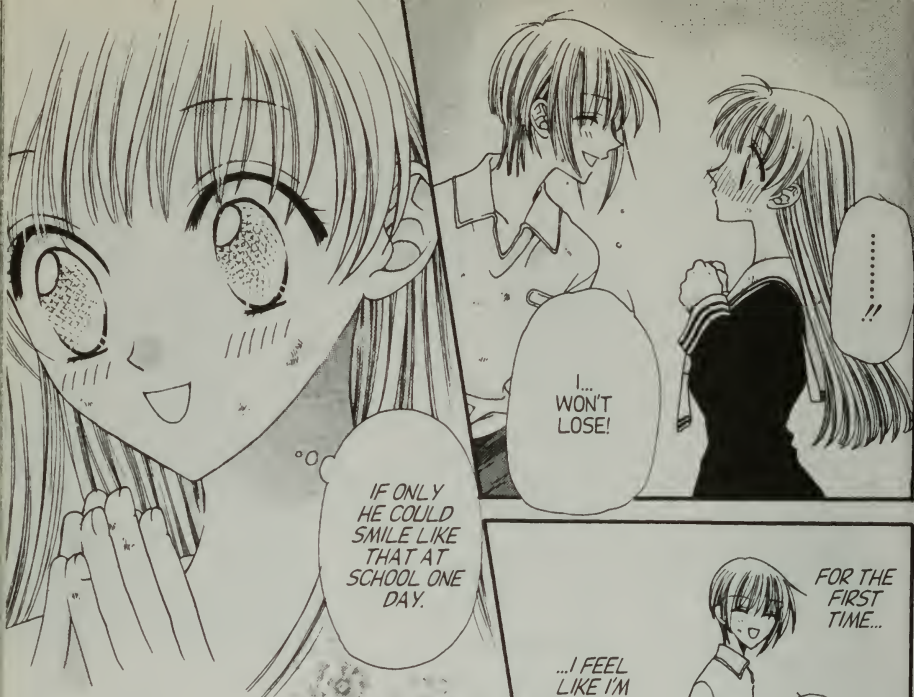
TOHRU...

...BELIEVE IN
PEOPLE.

DOUBTING
IS EASY--
ANYONE
CAN DO IT.

I'M
SURE
THAT...

TOHRU,
BE SOMEONE
WHO CAN
BELIEVE.



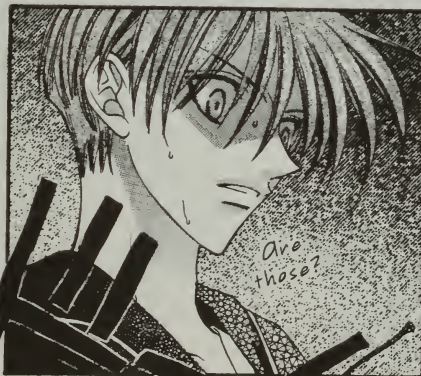
IF ONLY
HE COULD
SMILE LIKE
THAT AT
SCHOOL ONE
DAY.

HED
BE EVEN
MORE
POPULAR.

...I FEEL
LIKE I'M
SEEING
HIS TRUE
SMILE.

FOR THE
FIRST
TIME...

If we
don't go
home and
dry off...
...we'll
catch
cold.



Are
those?



Lopha & Lino



BUT...
I'LL
DO MY
BEST.

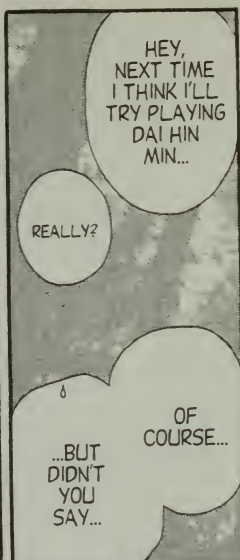
I FELT
A LITTLE
ASHAMED.

I DID,
BUT YOU
WERE ALL
HAVING SO
MUCH FUN.



...I WANT
TO BE ABLE
TO GET ALONG
WELL WITH
OTHERS.

EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST A
LITTLE
AT A TIME...



HEY,
NEXT TIME
I THINK I'LL
TRY PLAYING
DAI HIN
MIN...

REALLY?

OF
COURSE...

...BUT
DIDN'T
YOU
SAY...

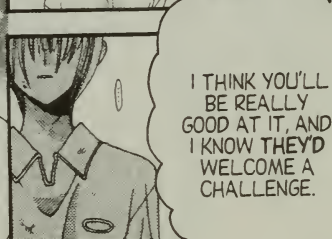


OKAY.

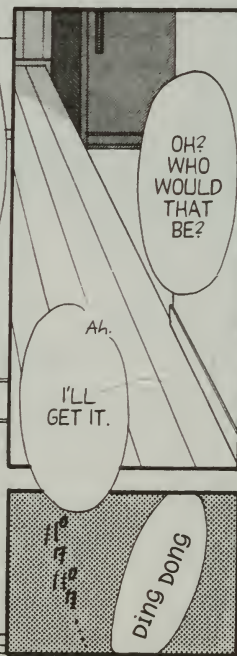
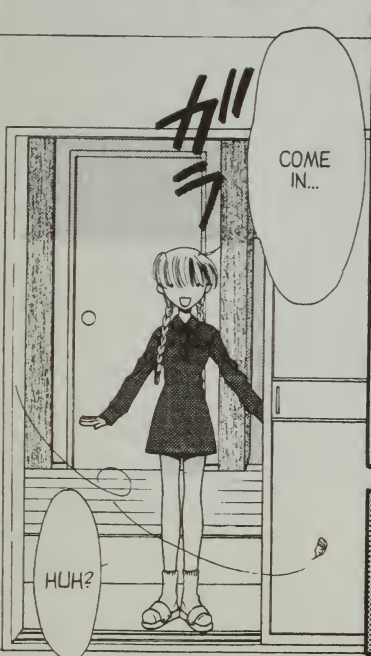
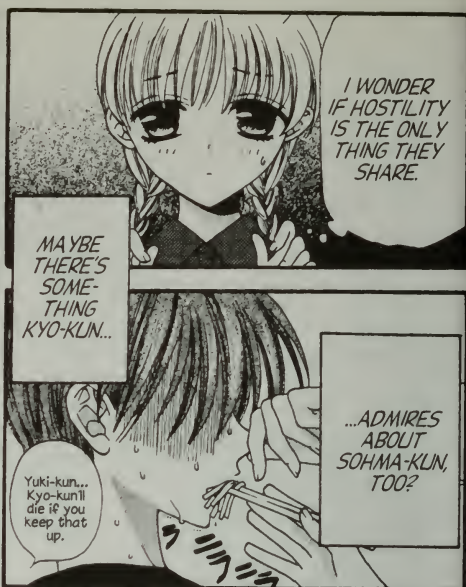


I'M
PROUD
TO HAVE
THEM
AS MY
FRIENDS!

HANA-
CHAN AND
UO-CHAN ARE
REALLY GREAT
PEOPLE!

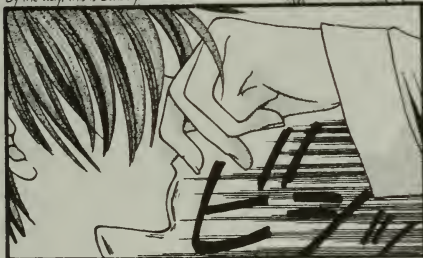


I THINK YOU'LL
BE REALLY
GOOD AT IT, AND
I KNOW THEY'D
WELCOME A
CHALLENGE.



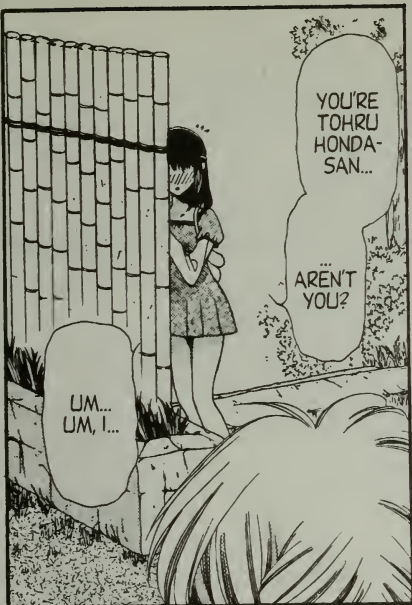


By the way, this is Sunday.





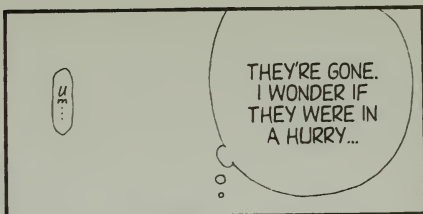
Chapter 5



YOU'RE
TOHRU
HONDA-
SAN...

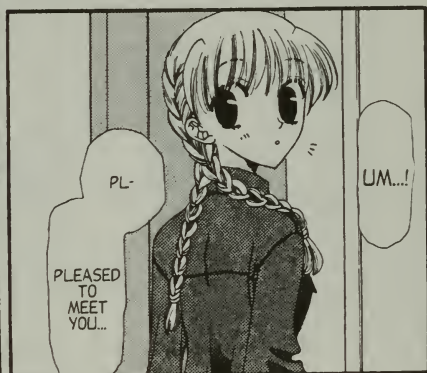
...
AREN'T
YOU?

UM...
UM, I...



U...

THEY'RE GONE.
I WONDER IF
THEY WERE IN
A HURRY...



PL-

PLEASED
TO
MEET
YOU...

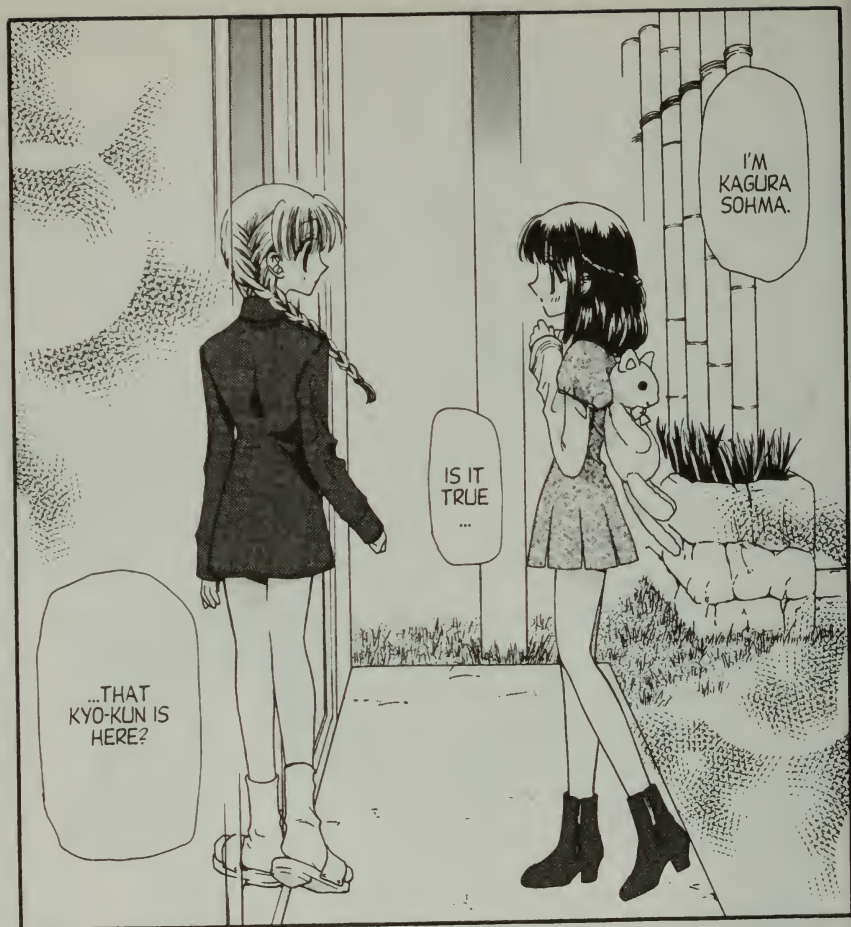
UM...!



...THAT
KYO-KUN
IS HERE?

I'M
KAGURA
SOHMA...

UM,
IS IT
TRUE...



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 4.

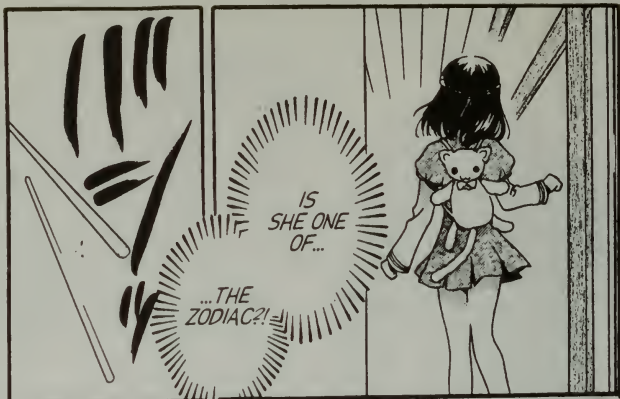
I couldn't help wanting to draw a girl like Kagura. So I'm pleased (ha ha). I thought the opinions on her would be divided between, "She's hilarious!" and "Why does she hit him? That's so mean!" and I was right. She hits him because she loves him. It's the ultimate expression of love (ha ha).

Omake Theater 3: Are you kidding or are you serious?



Number 6:

I have the Internet now. I feel weird about the Internet. I think it's a world that's there but not, and fake but real; I don't know what to call it (ha ha). It reminds me of "Soul Hackers." Yeah! I'm about half way through that game right now. Oh, no... I'm bubbling again- stay on target! I'm really getting into surfting around and checking out people's home pages. Home pages, huh...? I think I'd like to make one of my own, but I don't know how. If someone started one for me...? (ha ha) My home page would probably just talk about video games all the time!



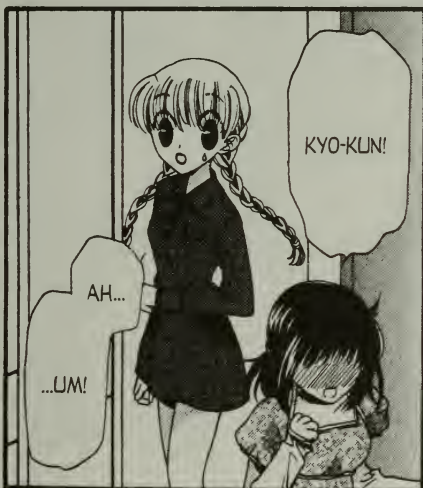


UM...?

KYO-KUN IS
BATTLING
WITH LEEKS
RIGHT NOW.

KAGURA
SOHMA
...

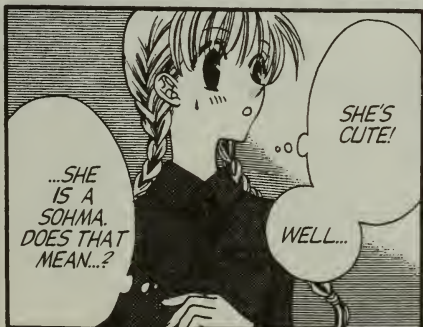
...SAN?



KYO-KUN!

AH...

...UM!



...SHE
IS A
SOHMA.
DOES THAT
MEAN...?

SHE'S
CUTE!

WELL...



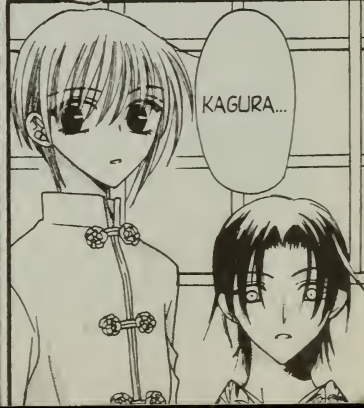
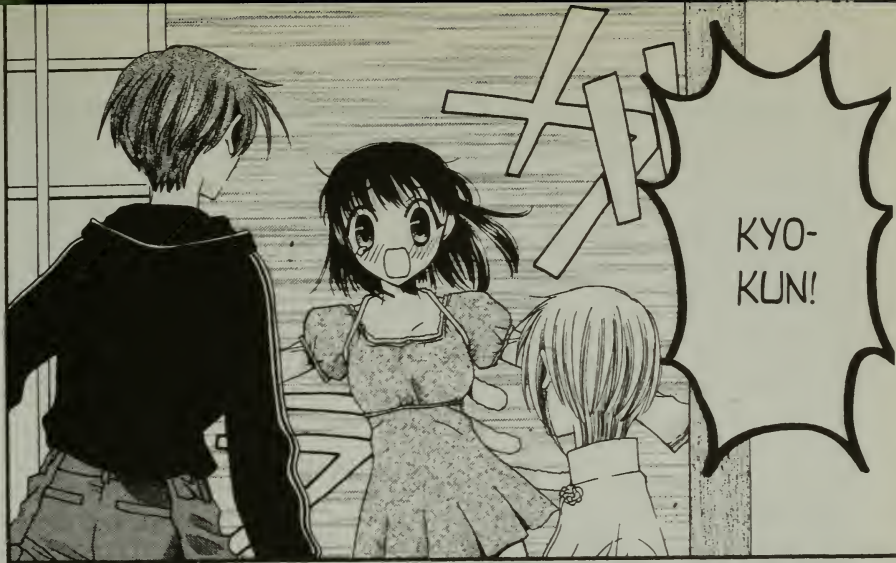
HE...

...HE
CAME
BACK!



I
Missed
you!





...SHE'S ONE
OF THE
CHINESE
ZODIAC.

STILL,
SHE'S TWO
YEARS OLDER
THAN WE
ARE.

SHE GETS
LIKE THAT.
ESPECIALLY
WHEN KYO IS
INVOLVED.

AND...

IF YOU KEEP
WATCHING, I
THINK YOU'LL
FIGURE IT
OUT...

WHICH
ANIMAL IS
SHE?!

.....
!!
I
KNOW
IT!

GUH!

!

OH
DEAR.

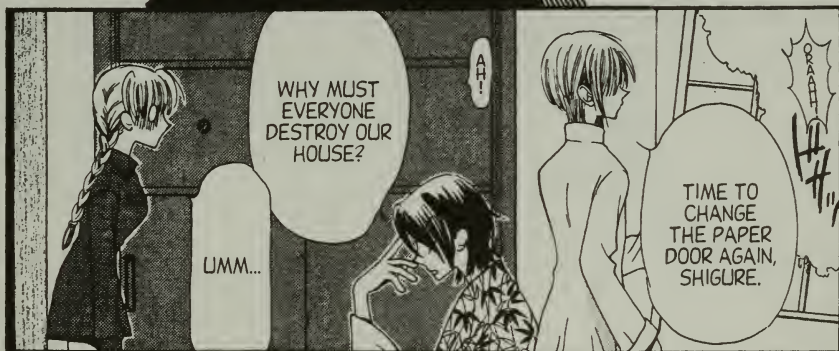
.....
I'VE
FIGURED
OUT THAT
KYO-KUN
LOOKS LIKE
HE'S ABOUT
TO DIE!



AH
HA
HAA!

-SO
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU!!

-WAS-!!



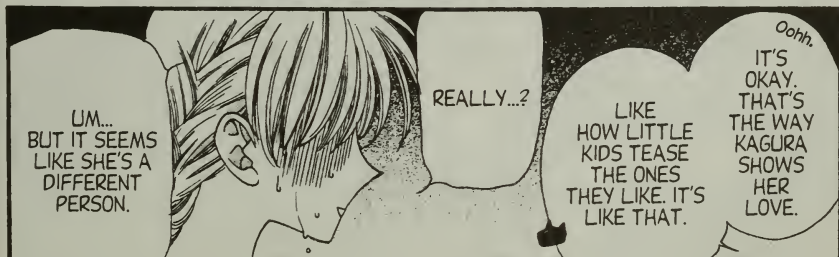
WHY MUST
EVERYONE
DESTROY OUR
HOUSE?

UMM...

AH!

TIME TO
CHANGE
THE PAPER
DOOR AGAIN,
SHIGURE.

OASHI!!
H#H#H



UM...
BUT IT SEEMS
LIKE SHE'S A
DIFFERENT
PERSON.

REALLY...?

LIKE
HOW LITTLE
KIDS TEASE
THE ONES
THEY LIKE. IT'S
LIKE THAT.

Oooh.
IT'S
OKAY.
THAT'S
THE WAY
KAGURA
SHOWS
HER
LOVE.

WHEN
DID YOU
DECIDE
THAT?!

BECAUSE
WE'RE
GOING
TO BE
MARRIED!

BUT
IT'S KYO-
KUN'S
FAULT,
TOO.

I WONDER
WHICH
ANIMAL
SHE IS?

DISAPPEARING
FOR FOUR
MONTHS
WITHOUT SO
MUCH AS A
PHONE CALL!

WHY
THE HELL
WOULD
I CALL YOU?

Although
Kyo's not
officially
a member
of the
zodiac.

BUT
MARRIAGE
BETWEEN
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC IS
THE MOST
WONDERFUL
THING IN THE
WORLD!

WHO
ELSE CAN
UNDERSTAND
THE PAIN
OF BEING
POSSESSED
BY A
VENGEFUL
SPIRIT?

AND
BETTER
STILL...

CON-
GRATU-
LATIONS.

THAT'S
SO GREAT
THAT YOU
FOUND
SOMEONE
TO BE YOUR
WIFE.

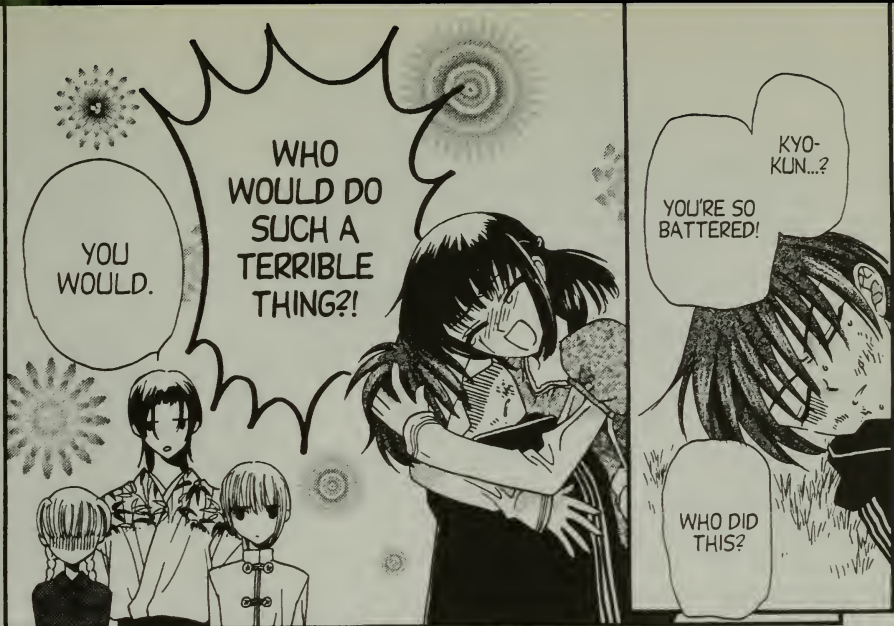
YOU'RE
ENGAGED
?!

That's
wonderful!

CUT-IT-OUT!!

THAT'S
BECAUSE YOU
THREATENED
ME!

WHEN
WE WERE
LITTLE, HE
SAID HE'D
MAKE ME
HIS BRIDE.



YOU WOULD.

WHO WOULD DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING?!

KYO-KUN...?

YOU'RE SO BATTERED!

WHO DID THIS?



BIT NIPPY, ISN'T IT?

ANYBODY FEEL A DRAFT?

I'M SORRY...!

ka-choo!

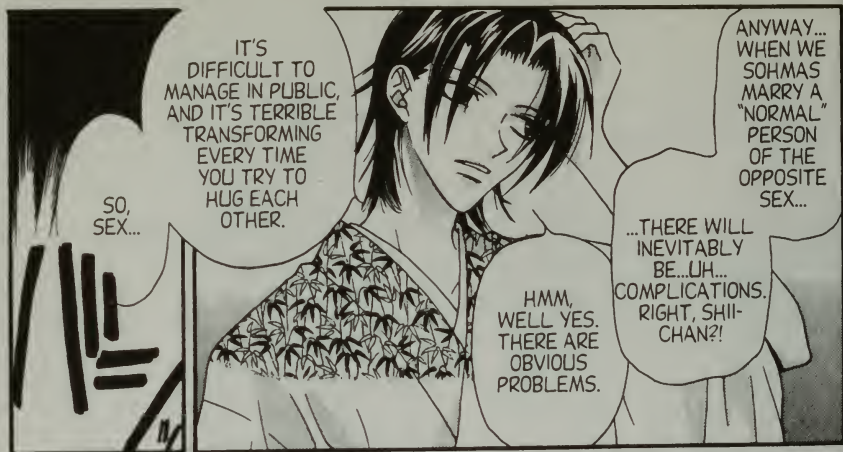
SHE'S CHANGED AGAIN.

SO SHE'S ONE OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC...



I'M SORRY.

I WAS SO TOUCHED AT BEING ABLE TO SEE KYO-KUN THAT I WAS HAPPY WITH ALL MY MIGHT!



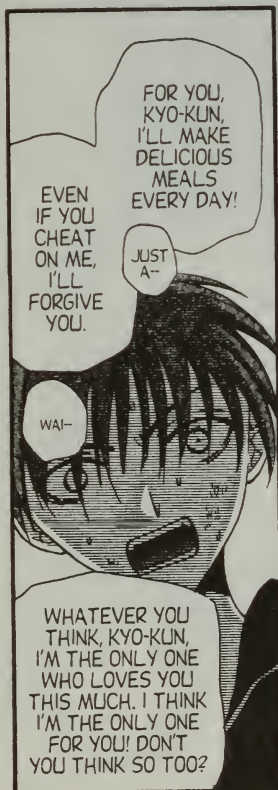
SO,
SEX...

IT'S
DIFFICULT TO
MANAGE IN PUBLIC,
AND IT'S TERRIBLE
TRANSFORMING
EVERY TIME
YOU TRY TO
HUG EACH
OTHER.

ANYWAY...
WHEN WE
SOHMAS
MARRY A
"NORMAL"
PERSON OF
THE
OPPOSITE
SEX...

...THERE WILL
INEVITABLY
BE...UH...
COMPLICATIONS.
RIGHT, SHII-
CHAN?!

HMM,
WELL YES.
THERE ARE
OBVIOUS
PROBLEMS.



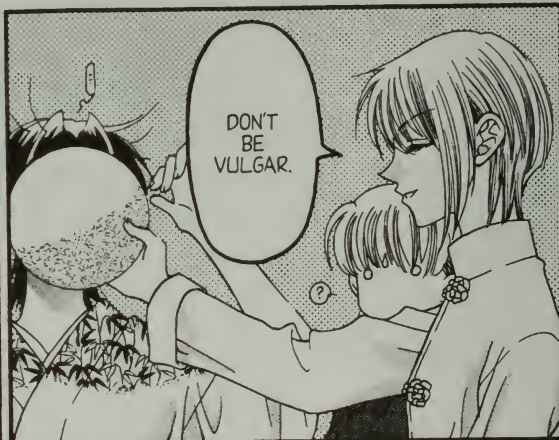
EVEN
IF YOU
CHEAT
ON ME,
I'LL
FORGIVE
YOU.

JUST
A--

WAI--

WHATEVER YOU
THINK, KYO-KUN,
I'M THE ONLY ONE
WHO LOVES YOU
THIS MUCH. I THINK
I'M THE ONLY ONE
FOR YOU! DON'T
YOU THINK SO TOO?

FOR YOU,
KYO-KUN,
I'LL MAKE
DELICIOUS
MEALS
EVERY DAY!



DON'T
BE
VULGAR.

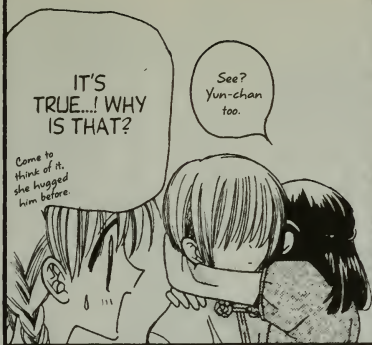


I LIKE YOU!
I LOVE YOU
MORE THAN
ANYTHING IN
THE WORLD!
MORE THAN
ANYTHING IN
THE UNIVERSE!

TELL ME
THE TRUTH!
DO YOU LIKE
ME? DO YOU
HATE ME?!

HUH?!

KYO-KUN!!



IT'S TRUE...! WHY IS THAT?

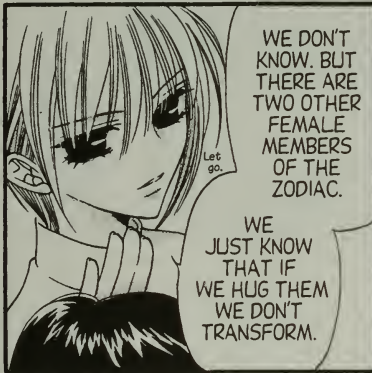
See? Yun-chan too.

Come to think of it, she hugged him before.



きんぐ

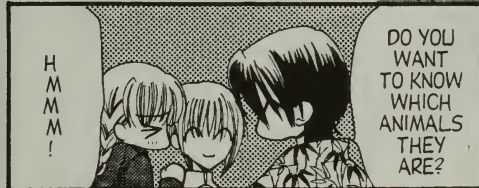
...MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC CAN HUG EACH OTHER WITHOUT TRANSFORMING.



WE DON'T KNOW, BUT THERE ARE TWO OTHER FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC.

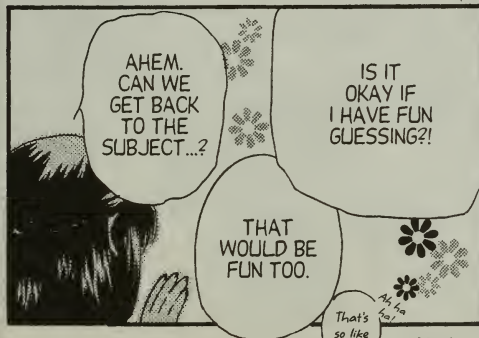
WE JUST KNOW THAT IF WE HUG THEM WE DON'T TRANSFORM.

Let go.



H M M M !

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHICH ANIMALS THEY ARE?



AHEM. CAN WE GET BACK TO THE SUBJECT...?

IS IT OKAY IF I HAVE FUN GUESSING?!

THAT WOULD BE FUN TOO.

That's so like you.



UWAHAH UWAHAH UWAAAAH!

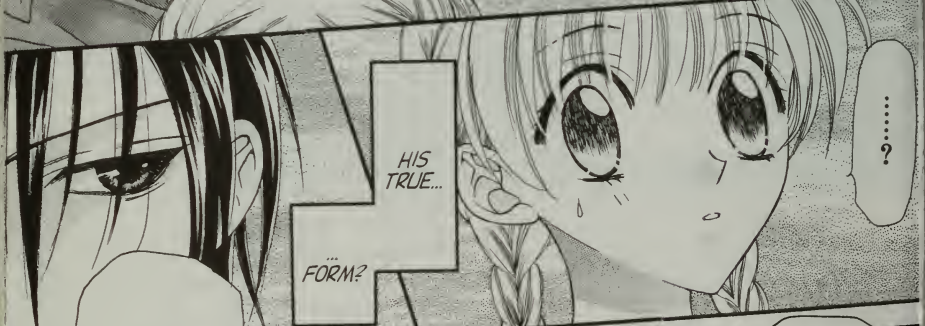
THERE ARE TWO OTHER GIRLS?!



THAT'S...

I'LL
STAND
BY HI--

...
ENOUGH!

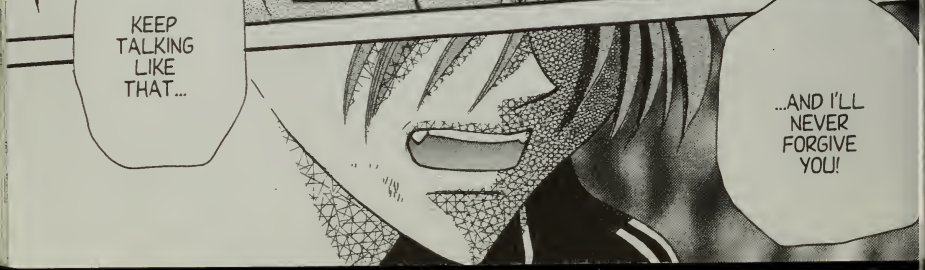


HIS
TRUE...

...
FORM?

...
?

KEEP
TALKING
LIKE
THAT...



...AND I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU!



EH...?

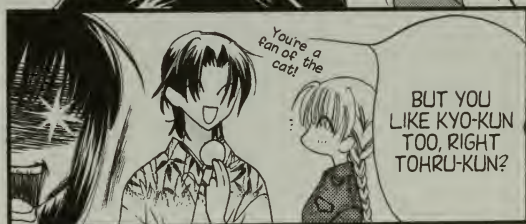
...
YOU'RE
MY
RIVAL?!

NO...



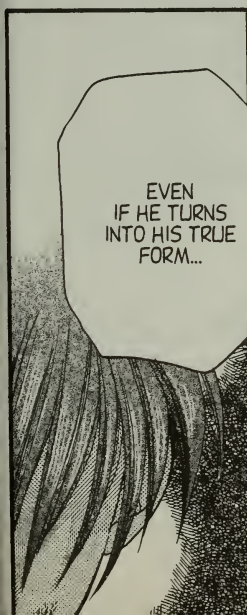
KYO-
KUN SURE
CAVES
UNDER
PRESSURE
...

I ASKED
IF YOU
THOUGHT
SO TOO!



You're a
fan of the
cat!

BUT YOU
LIKE KYO-KUN
TOO, RIGHT
TOHRU-KUN?



EVEN
IF HE TURNS
INTO HIS TRUE
FORM...



I'LL TAKE HIS
GOOD TRAITS
WITH HIS BAD!



HEY...



WHAT
DO YOU
LIKE ABOUT
KYO-KUN?!
I LOVE
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
HIM!

UM...

WELL,
I WON'T LOSE!
MY LOVE CAN
OVERCOME ANY
OBSTACLE!



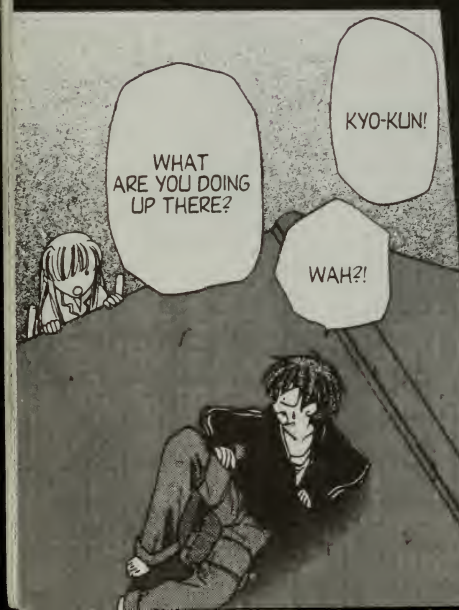
I KNEW
THERE
WAS
SOME-
THING...

I FORGOT
TO DRY MY
UNIFORM.

CLUNK



SOME-
ONE'S
ON THE
ROOF?



WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
UP THERE?

KYO-KUN!

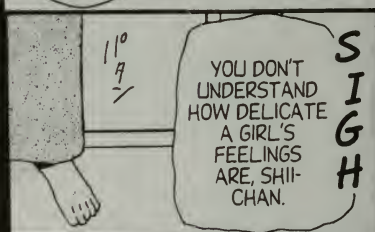
WAH?!



IF IT'S
GOING TO
BE THIS
WAY, THEN
I'LL MAKE
HIM MINE
TONIGHT!

YOU'RE NOT
ALLOWED TO
LEAVE YOUR
ROOM UNTIL
MORNING.

Try not
to break
anything.



YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW DELICATE
A GIRL'S
FEELINGS
ARE, SHI-
CHAN.

S
I
G
H



EVEN
I...

...KNOW WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO
BE JEALOUS.



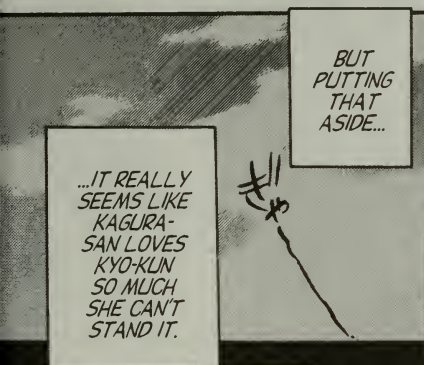
I
WONDER
WHAT
SHE
MEANS
BY TRUE
FORM.

IT
LOOKS
LIKE KYO'S
THE ONE
WHO NEEDS
TO BE
FORGIVEN.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
YOU'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
ME?!

OWWWW!



BUT
PUTTING
THAT
ASIDE...

...IT REALLY
SEEMS LIKE
KAGURA-
SAN LOVES
KYO-KUN
SO MUCH
SHE CAN'T
STAND IT.

I HAVEN'T
EVEN HAD
MY FIRST
LOVE...



FEEL
FREE TO
STAY THE
NIGHT ANY
TIME.

I JUST
GET SO
NERVOUS
THINKING
OF A GIRL
SO CLOSE
TO HIM.

I WISH
I COULD
LIVE
HERE
TOO.

...SO I'M
A LITTLE
JEALOUS
THAT SHE
CAN LOVE
SOMEONE
SO MUCH.

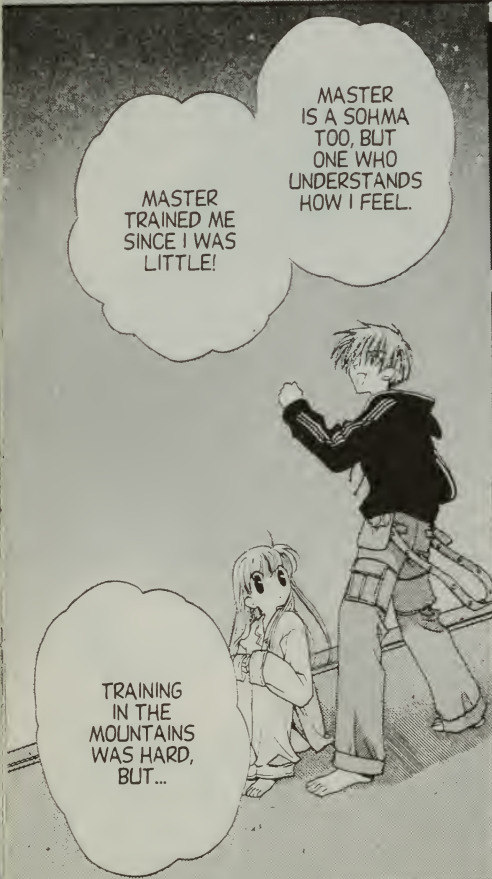


WAS IT
HARD...?
BEING ALL
BY YOUR-
SELF?

YEAH.
SHIGURE
TOLD
YOU?

ISN'T
IT YOUR
DREAM
TO BEAT
SOHMA-KUN?

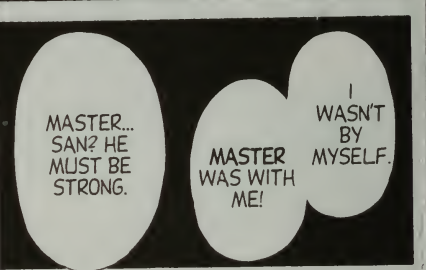
YOU EVEN
RAN AWAY
TO TRAIN
FOR IT.



MASTER
TRAINED ME
SINCE I WAS
LITTLE!

MASTER
IS A SOHMA
TOO, BUT
ONE WHO
UNDERSTANDS
HOW I FEEL.

TRAINING
IN THE
MOUNTAINS
WAS HARD,
BUT...



MASTER...
SAN? HE
MUST BE
STRONG.

MASTER
WAS WITH
ME!

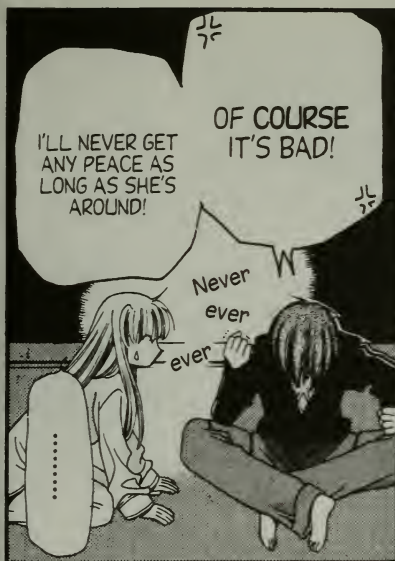
I
WASN'T
BY
MYSELF.



Pah!

OF
COURSE!

EVEN THAT
DAMN YUKI
WOULD BE
TORN APART
BY MASTER!



I'LL NEVER GET ANY PEACE AS LONG AS SHE'S AROUND!

OF COURSE IT'S BAD!

Never
ever
ever



G A S P !

OH YEAH, YOU DON'T HAVE A ROOM...

DID I TAKE YOUR ROOM?!

THAT'S NOT IT.

I always slept in the living room.

KAGURA'S DOWN THERE TONIGHT...

IS IT BAD THAT SHE'S HERE?



I THINK IT'S AMAZING THAT SHE CAN LOVE SOMEONE SO MUCH.

BESIDES...

...GETTING MARRIED IS A GIRL'S GREATEST DREAM!

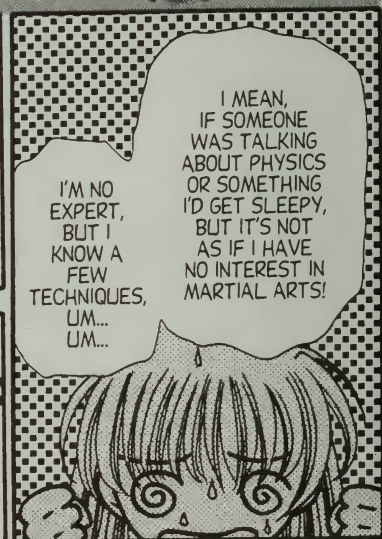
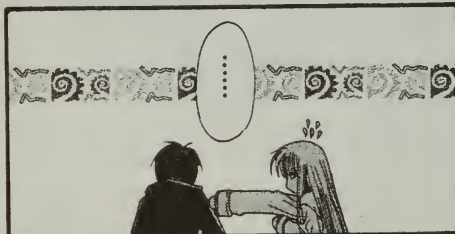
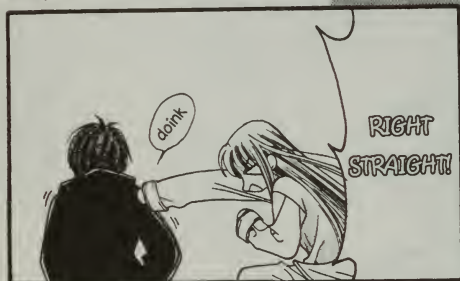
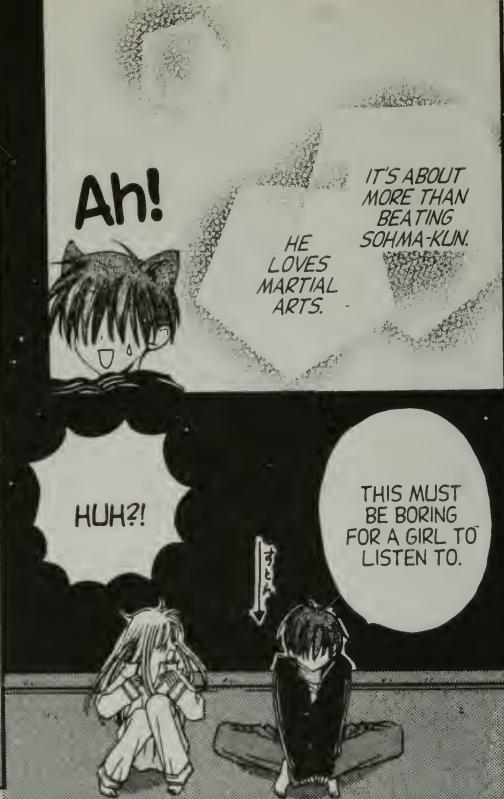
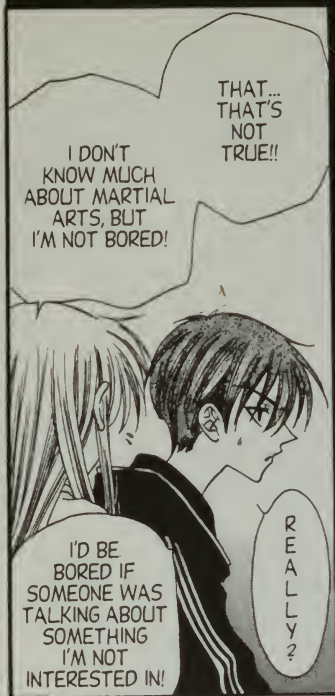
HNNN...? REALLY...? WHY...?



I DON'T UNDERSTAND HER.

MARRIAGE OR WHATEVER-- IT'S INSANE.

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!





I GOT
EXCITED
JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT!

HE IS
ACTING
LIKE A
LITTLE
BOY.

THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE SEEN
KYO-KUN SO
EXCITED.

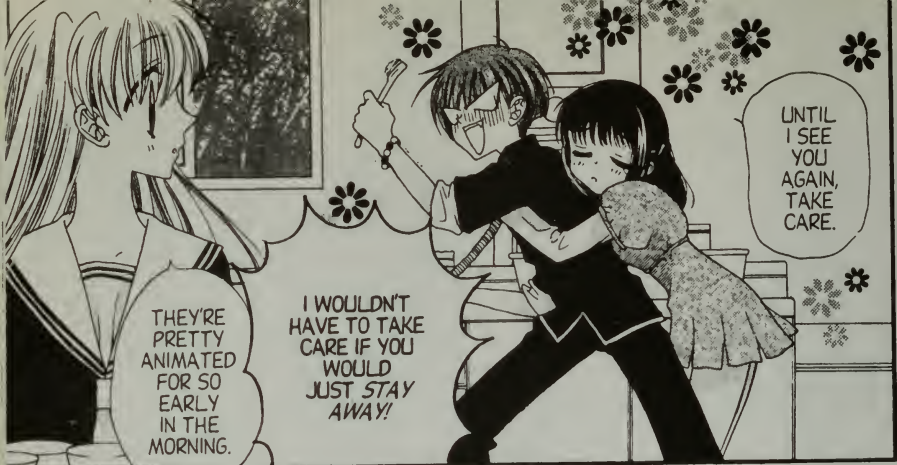
...I
ALWAYS
LOOKED
FORWARD
TO THE
NEXT
DAY...

SUDDENLY
I WANT
TO FIGHT!

aaahh!!

...HOW MUCH
STRONGER
I'D BECOME...

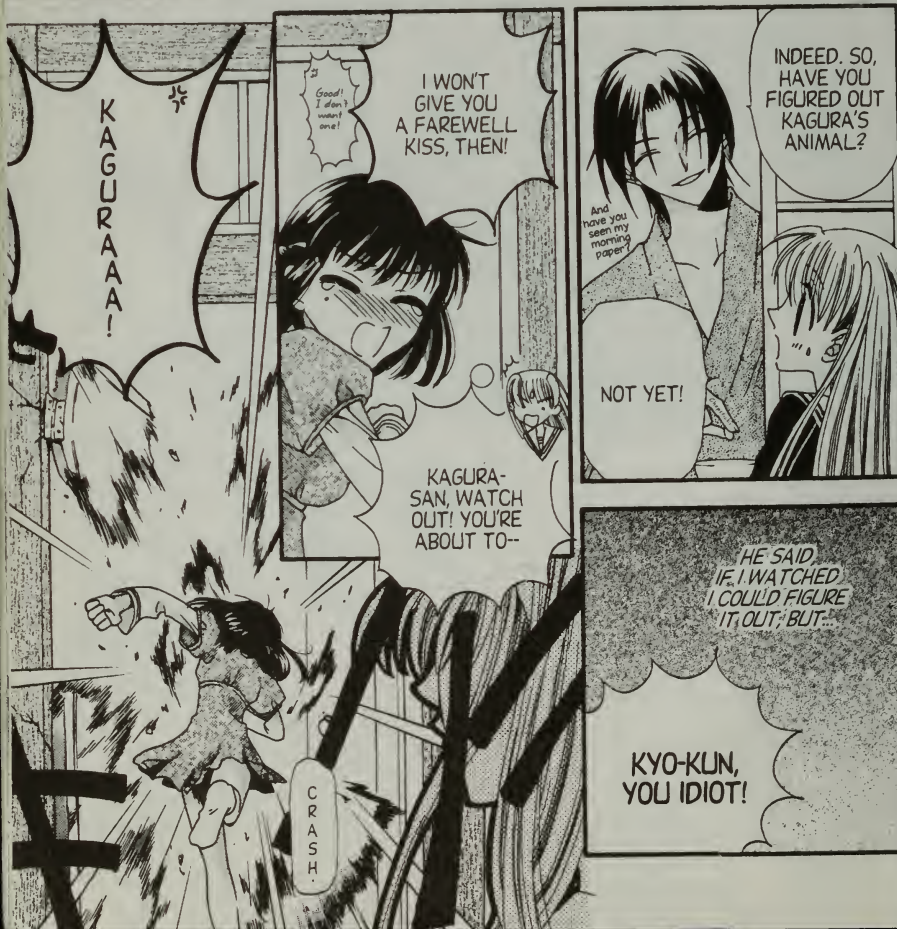
...WONDERING
WHAT I
WOULD
LEARN...



UNTIL
I SEE
YOU
AGAIN,
TAKE
CARE.

THEY'RE
PRETTY
ANIMATED
FOR SO
EARLY
IN THE
MORNING.

I WOULDN'T
HAVE TO TAKE
CARE IF YOU
WOULD
JUST STAY
AWAY!



KAGURAAA!

Good!
I don't
want
one!

I WON'T
GIVE YOU
A FAREWELL
KISS, THEN!

KAGURA-
SAN, WATCH
OUT! YOU'RE
ABOUT TO--

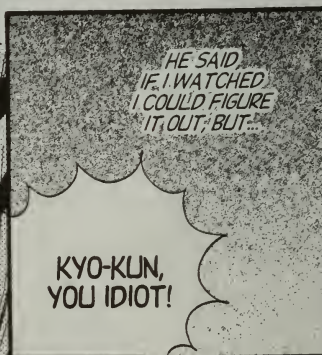
CRASH



INDEED. SO,
HAVE YOU
FIGURED OUT
KAGURA'S
ANIMAL?

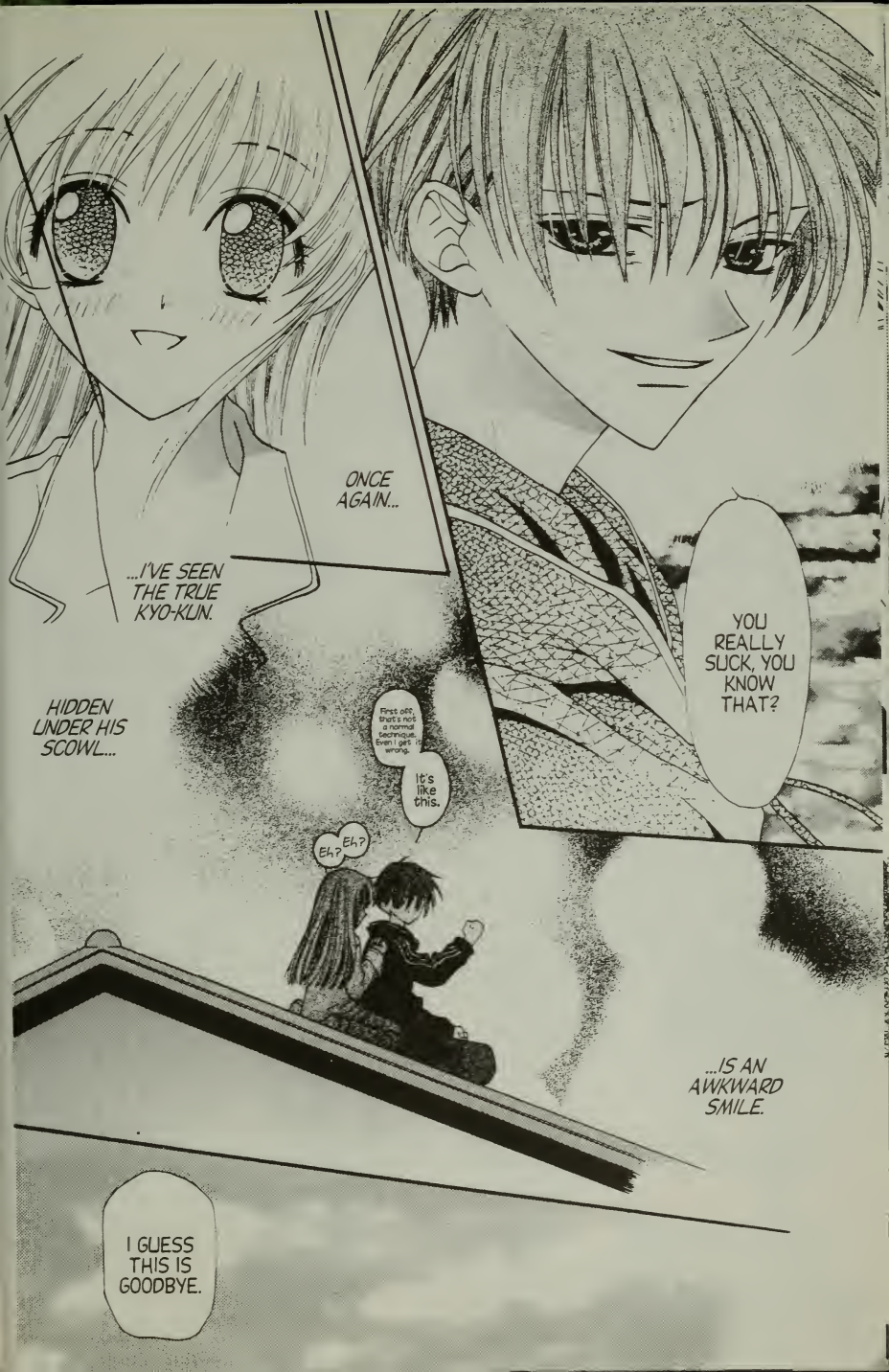
And
have you
seen my
morning
paper?

NOT YET!



HE SAID,
IF I WATCHED,
I COULD FIGURE
IT OUT, BUT...

KYO-KUN,
YOU IDIOT!



ONCE
AGAIN...

...I'VE SEEN
THE TRUE
KYO-KUN.

HIDDEN
UNDER HIS
SCOWL....

YOU
REALLY
SUCK, YOU
KNOW
THAT?

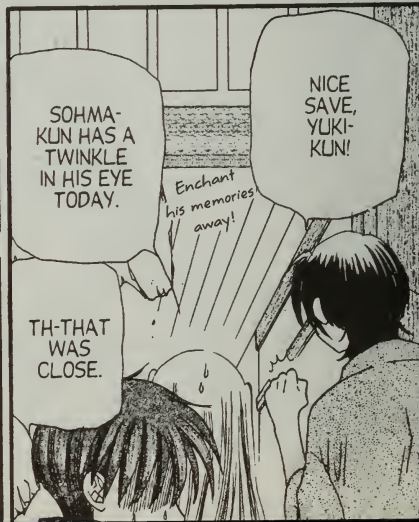
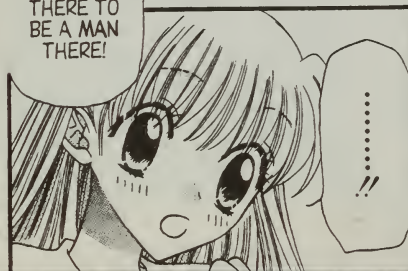
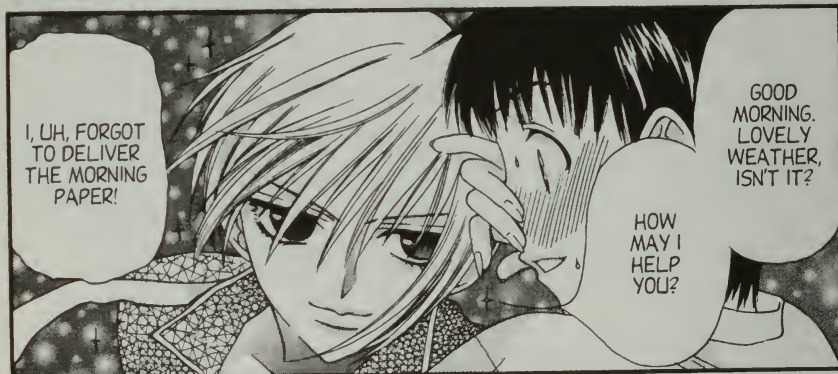
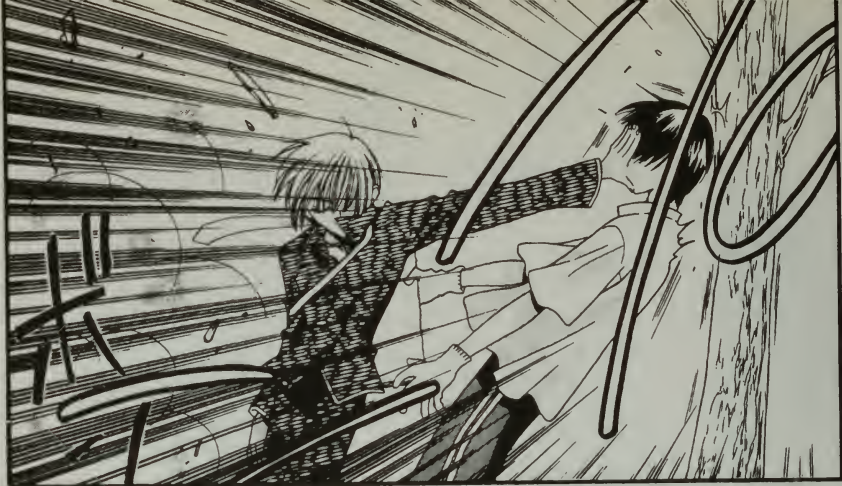
First off,
that's not
a normal
technique.
Even I get
wrong.

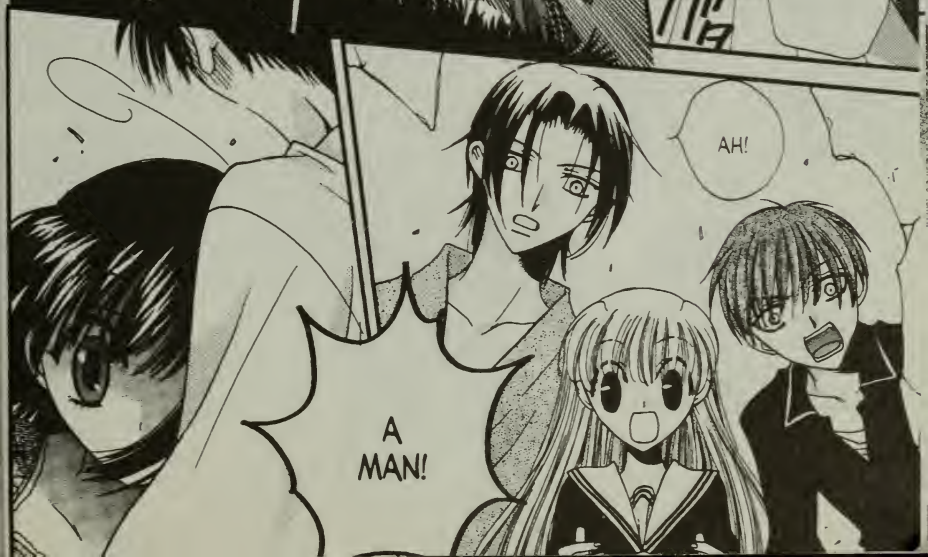
It's
like
this.

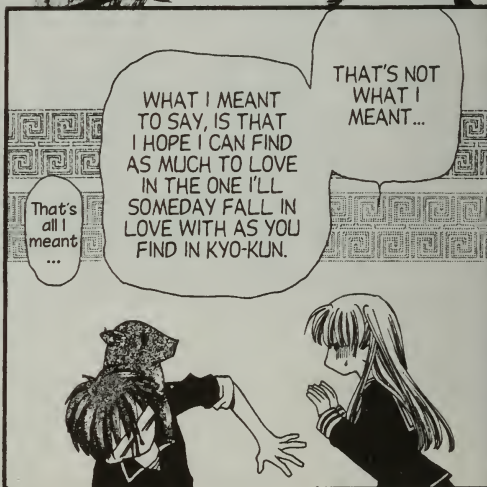
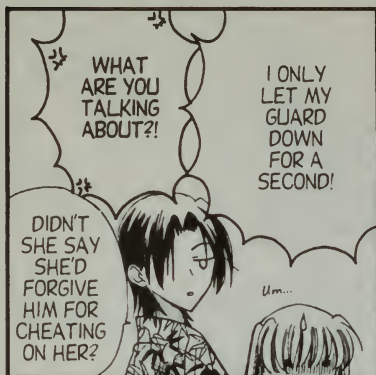
Eh? Eh?

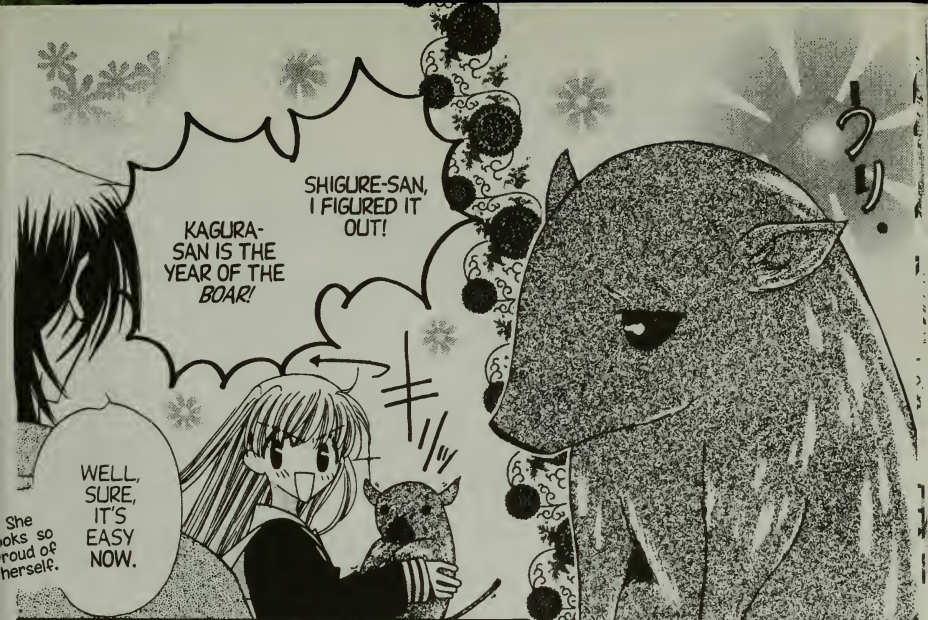
...IS AN
AWKWARD
SMILE.

I GUESS
THIS IS
GOODBYE.









She looks so proud of herself.

WELL, SURE, IT'S EASY NOW.

KAGURA-SAN IS THE YEAR OF THE BOAR!

SHIGURE-SAN, I FIGURED IT OUT!

IT'S NO GOOD TO REASON IT OUT ONCE YOU'VE GOT THE ANSWER.

JUST THE LIKE BOAR!

KAGURA-SAN ALWAYS CHARGES STRAIGHT AHEAD...

KYO-KUN HAS SO MANY WONDERFUL QUALITIES!

...WHY YOU LIKE KYO-KUN SO MUCH.

KAGURA-SAN, I THINK I KNOW...

I'M IMPRESSED! SHE'S SUCH A CUTE PIG!

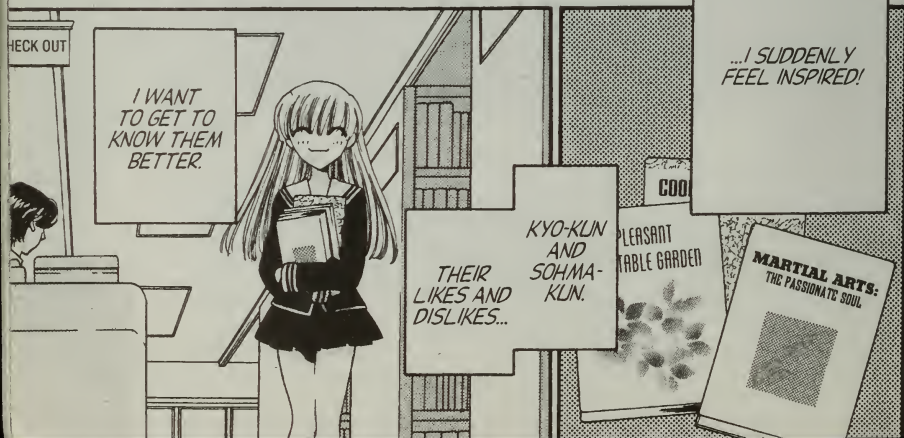
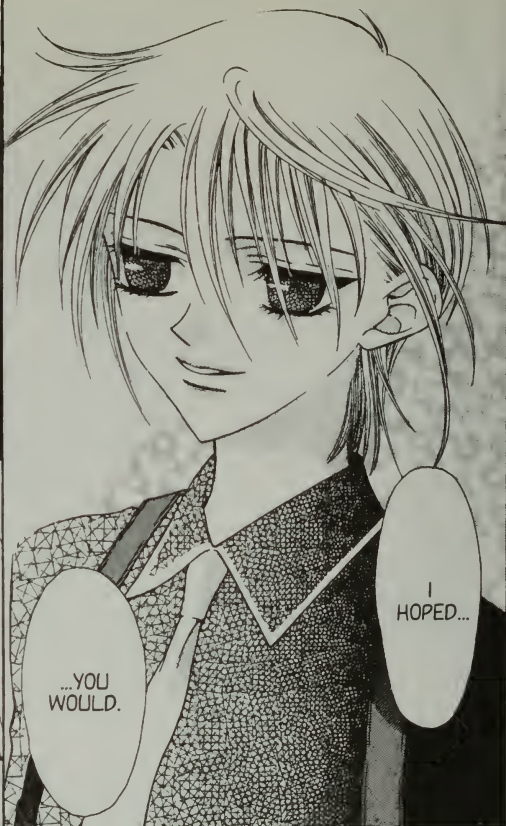
SHE'S NOT LISTENING.

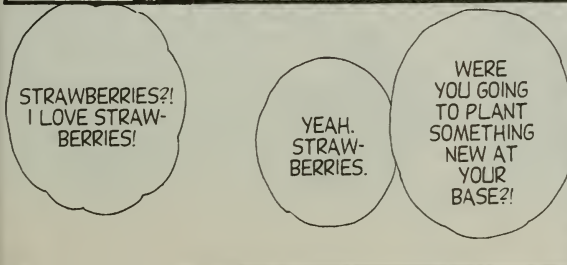
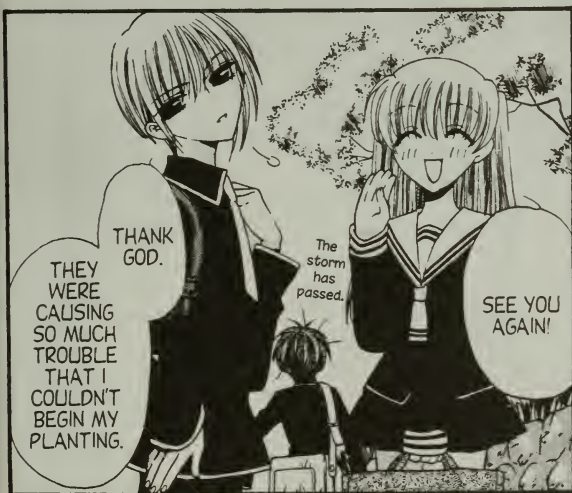
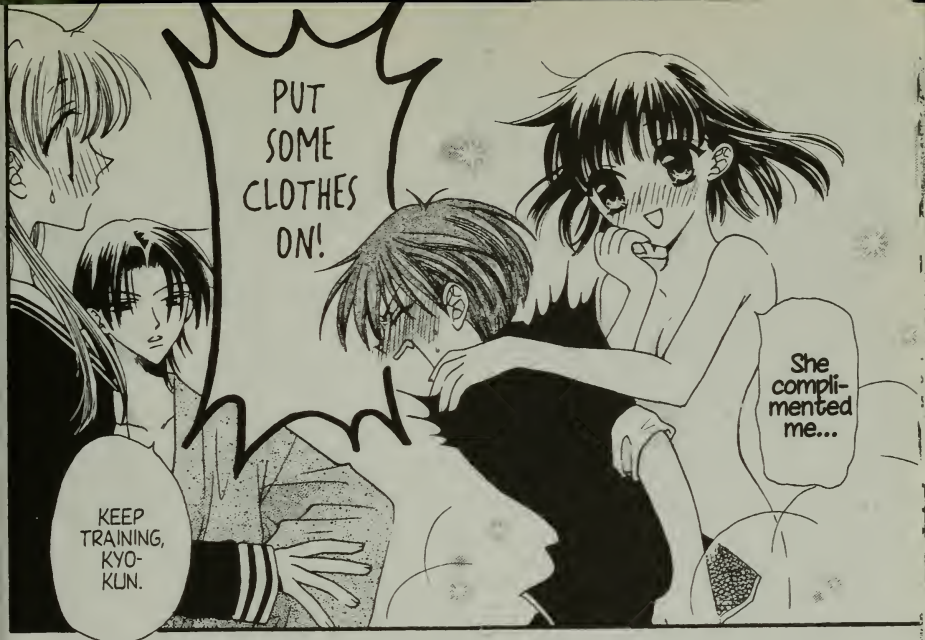
Oh well.



OH ...

FOR SOME REASON...





IT'S
OVER.

THE
REMODEL-
ING...

...IS
FINISHED.

TODAY...

...FROM
GRAND-
PA.

...I GOT A
PHONE
CALL...

SO...



HELLO? I'M
TRANSFER-
RING YOU.

FACULTY OFFICE

GASP!



I
WANT
TO FIND...

...NEW SIDES
OF THEM I
HAVEN'T
SEEN.

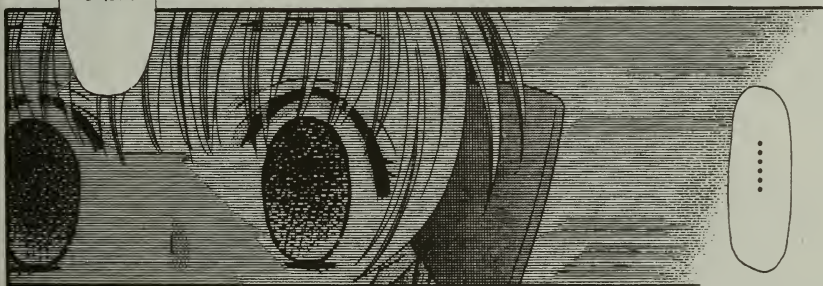
HONDA.

YOU
HAVE A
PHONE
CALL
IN THE
OFFICE.



OKAY.

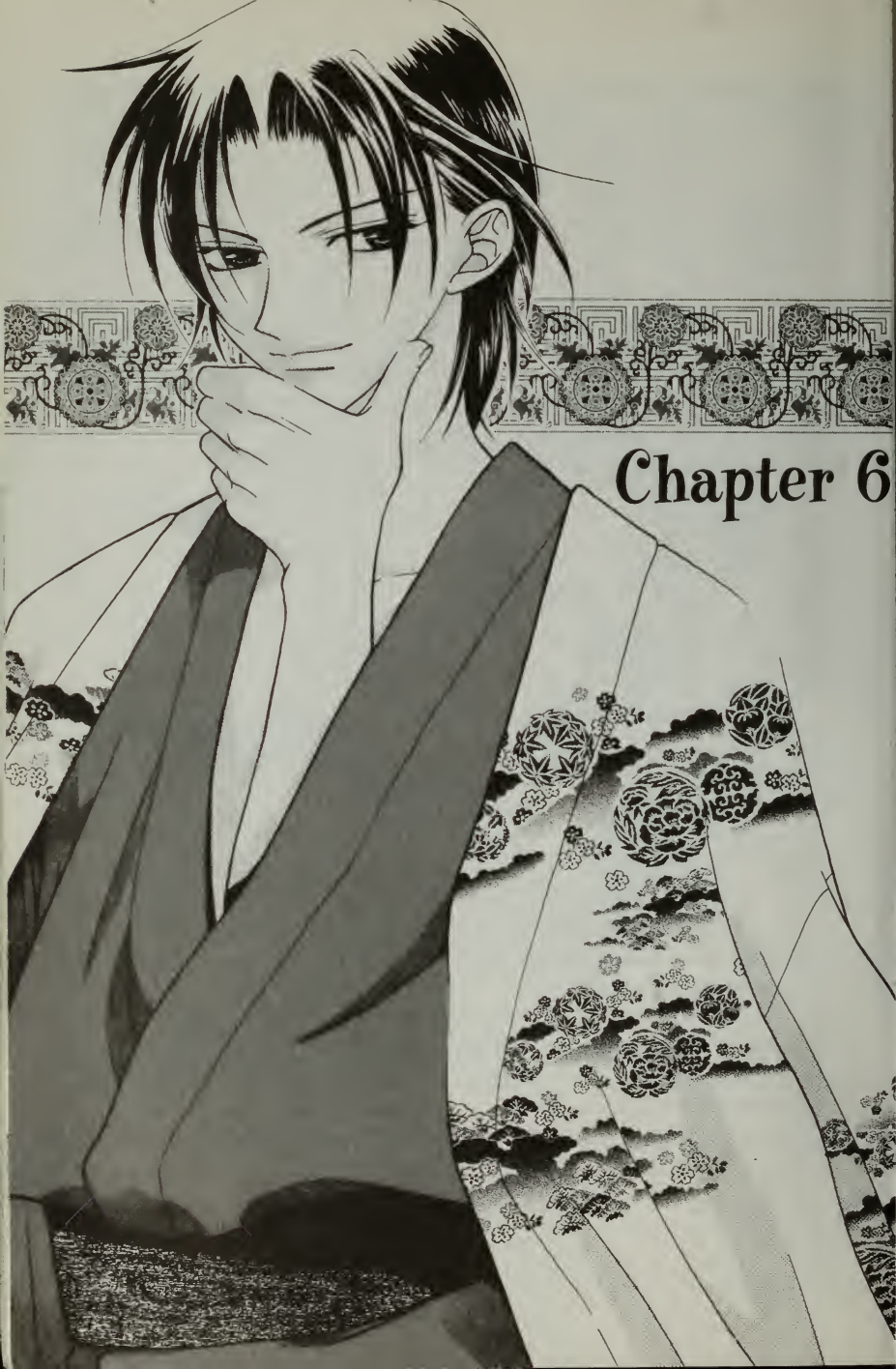
Ah!



...

GRAND...

...PA...?

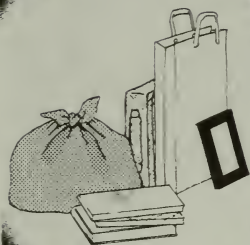


Chapter 6

...BUT I MADE
THE MISTAKE...

I WAS
NEVER GOING
TO BE
MORE THAN...

...OF THINKING
OF THEM...



...AS MY
FAMILY.

...A
TEMP-
ORARY
GUEST...

...A
MISTAKE

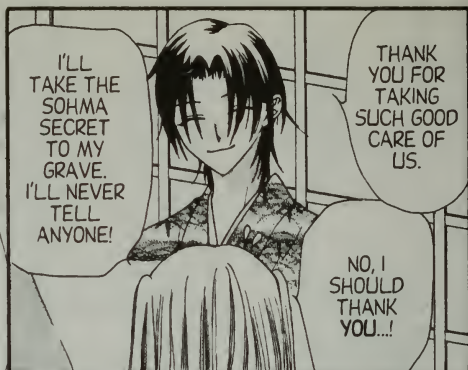
I
MADE...





I WILL!

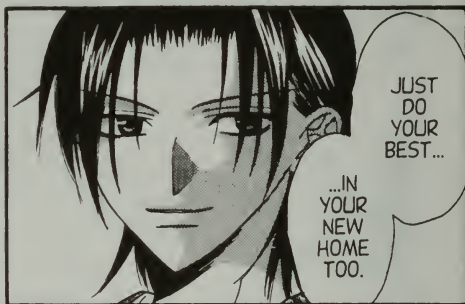
I WON'T ALLOW FOR SADNESS.



I'LL TAKE THE SOHMA SECRET TO MY GRAVE. I'LL NEVER TELL ANYONE!

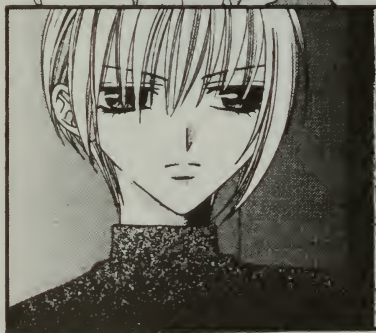
THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF US.

NO, I SHOULD THANK YOU....!



JUST DO YOUR BEST...

...IN YOUR NEW HOME TOO.



I THOUGHT YOU'D STOP HER.

A BIG MISTAKE.

OH!
AND THEY
CHANGED
TRASH DAY,
DON'T
FORGET.

AND
YOU'RE
ALMOST
OUT OF SOY
SAUCE.

PLEASE
EAT THE
SHIOKARA...
IN THE
FRIDGE
SOON.

*Salted fish guts

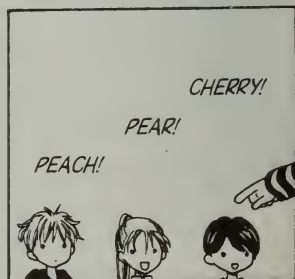
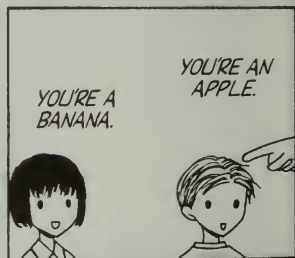
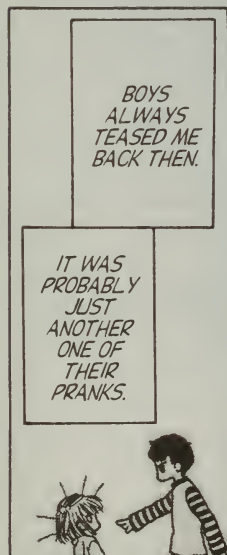
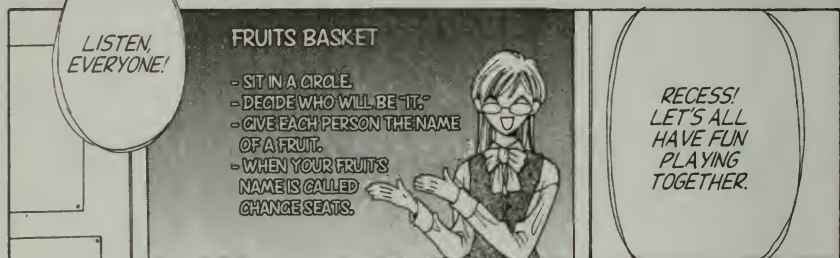
YOU'RE
FINALLY
LEAVING
TOMORROW...?

AND...
OH! THIS
IS MY GRAND-
FATHER'S
ADDRESS.

I'LL
GIVE IT
TO YOU
FOR
NOW.

ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 5.

This series is kind of turning into a sitcom, but I don't really think of it as a comedy when I draw it. I mean -- it is funny (Of course I don't mind if people call it a comedy. I love comedies. Especially dry humor). I just kind of feel like, "Oh. Is it?" I have no idea what I'm trying to say.





.....

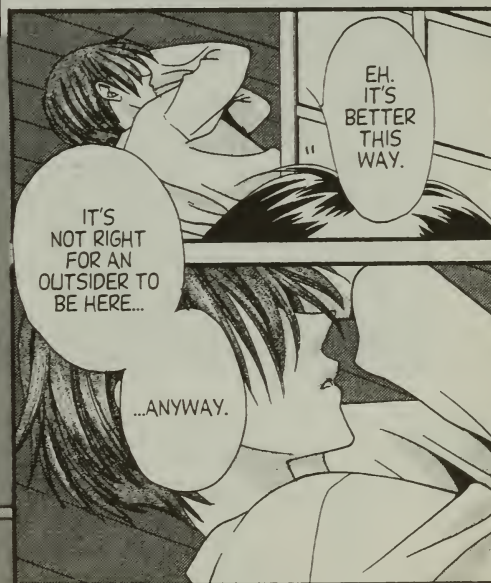
SO WHY DOES
IT FEEL LIKE A
FUNERAL HOME
IN HERE?

I MADE A
MISTAKE.



WHY?

WE
KNEW IT
WAS ONLY
UNTIL THE
REMODELING
WAS
FINISHED.



EH.
IT'S
BETTER
THIS
WAY.

IT'S
NOT RIGHT
FOR AN
OUTSIDER TO
BE HERE...

...ANYWAY.

Number 7:

When "Furuba" started in "Hana to Yume Magazine," there was a popularity contest.

Here are the results:

First place...

Yuki.

Second place...

Tohru.

Third place...

Kyo.

Fourth place...

Shigure.

Fifth place...

Hana.

Sixth place...

Uo.

Seventh place...

Mama.

If we do it now, we might have different results. Like, Kyo had only been around for one chapter. No one had a chance to fall in love with him yet!

Oh, and remember when Shigure teases Kyo with a song? The original words were "kyo-o-kun no su-ke-be."

(Kyo-kun is a pervert). Can you guess the tune? Don't worry about it. I don't think anyone would really know it anyway. It'll just be my secret!

...THERE WOULD NEVER BE ROOM FOR AN ONIGIRI...



...IN A FRUITS BASKET.

IT'S BEEN... A LONG TIME.

I AM AT YOUR MERCY.

BUT THEY KNEW...

I WAS
VERY
LITTLE
THEN.

I HAD
ALMOST
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT
THAT.

...I WAITED
FOR
SOMEONE
TO CALL
"ONIGIRI."



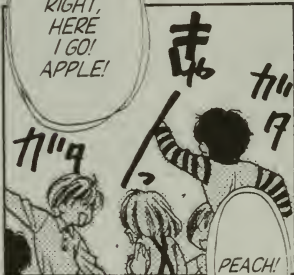
BUT
NO ONE
CALLED.

ONIGIRI!!
THAT
SOUNDS
GOOD!

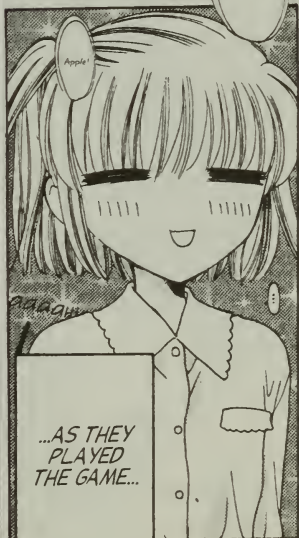
BUT
I...



ALL
RIGHT,
HERE
I GO!
APPLE!



PEACH!



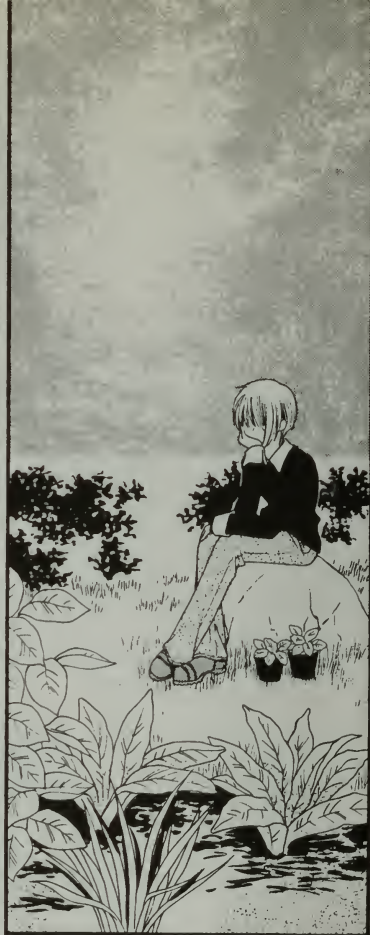
...AS THEY
PLAYED
THE GAME...



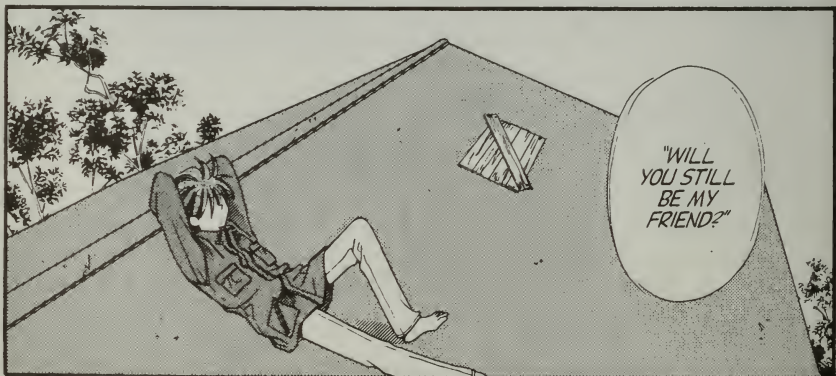
"I LOVE
STRAW-
BERRIES!"



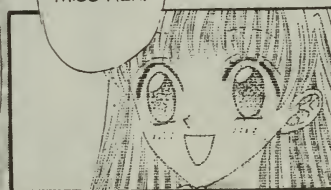
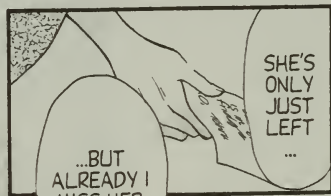
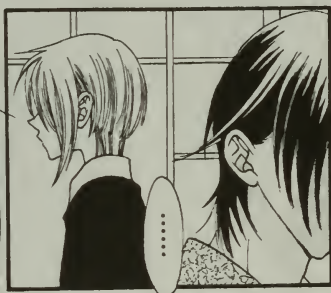
"STRAW-
BERRIES!"

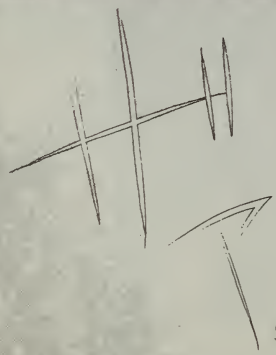


"...
PLEASE..."



"WILL
YOU STILL
BE MY
FRIEND?"







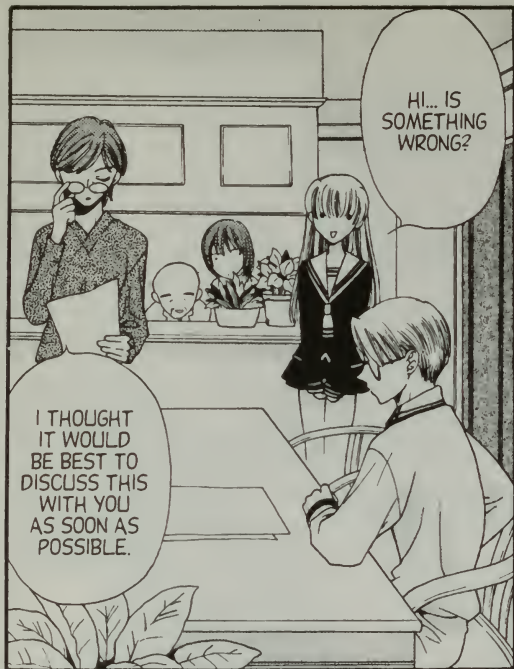
"RIGHT
STRAIGHT!"



"I LOVE THE
CAT FROM THE
ZODIAC."

"I
WANTED
TO BE BORN
IN THE YEAR
OF THE
CAT."





HI... IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?

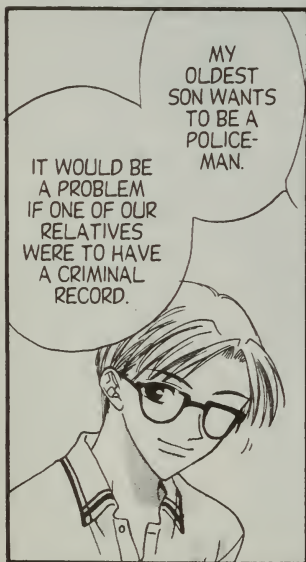
I THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE BEST TO
DISCUSS THIS
WITH YOU
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.



KYOKO-
SAN.

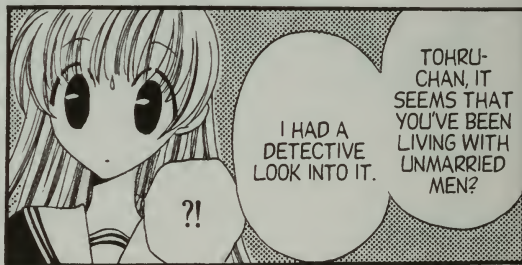
THAT'S
TOHRU,
GRANDPA.

THEY'RE
CALLING FOR
YOU
DOWN-
STAIRS.



MY
OLDEST
SON WANTS
TO BE A
POLICE-
MAN.

IT WOULD BE
A PROBLEM
IF ONE OF OUR
RELATIVES
WERE TO HAVE
A CRIMINAL
RECORD.



I HAD A
DETECTIVE
LOOK INTO IT.

TOHRU-
CHAN, IT
SEEMS THAT
YOU'VE BEEN
LIVING WITH
UNMARRIED
MEN?

?!



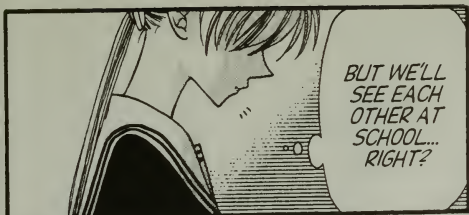
D-
DETECTIVE...?

WHY
GO TO THE
TROUBLE...?

People
really do
that?

And I
thought
I would
be first.
Grandpa

NO WAY!
YOU WERE
LIVING
WITH GUYS?!
WOW!

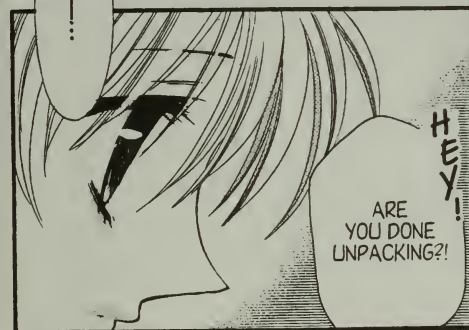


BUT WE'LL
SEE EACH
OTHER AT
SCHOOL.....
RIGHT?



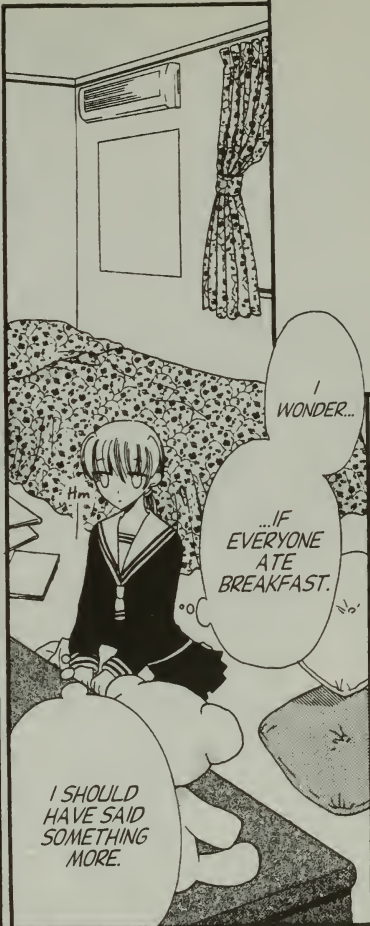
Pleasant
vegetable Garden

Marital Arts:
THE PASSIONATE SOUL



HEY!

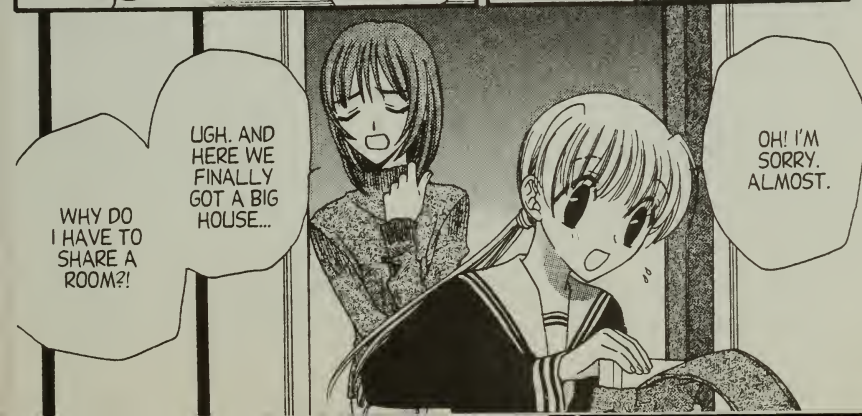
ARE
YOU DONE
UNPACKING?!



I
WONDER...

...IF
EVERYONE
ATE
BREAKFAST.

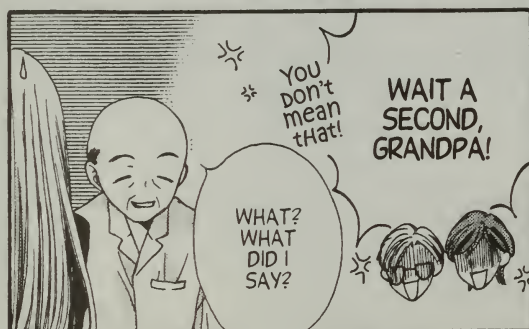
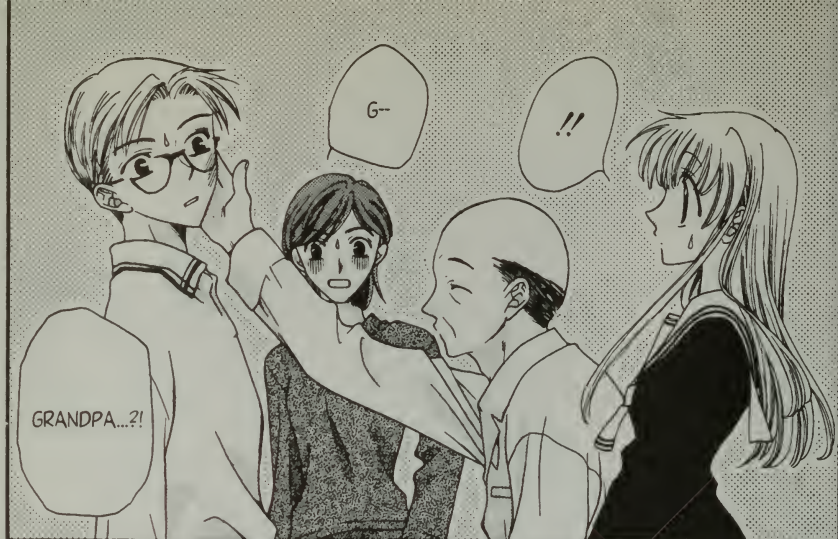
I SHOULD
HAVE SAID
SOMETHING
MORE.



WHY DO
I HAVE TO
SHARE A
ROOM?!

UGH. AND
HERE WE
FINALLY
GOT A BIG
HOUSE...

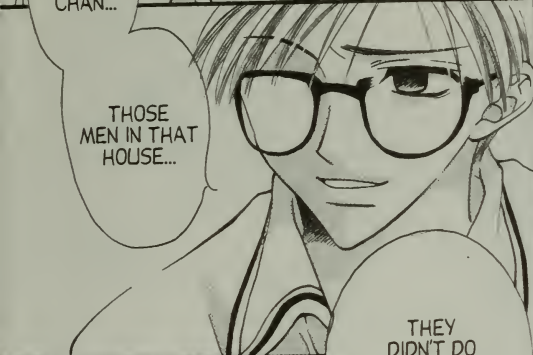
OH! I'M
SORRY.
ALMOST.



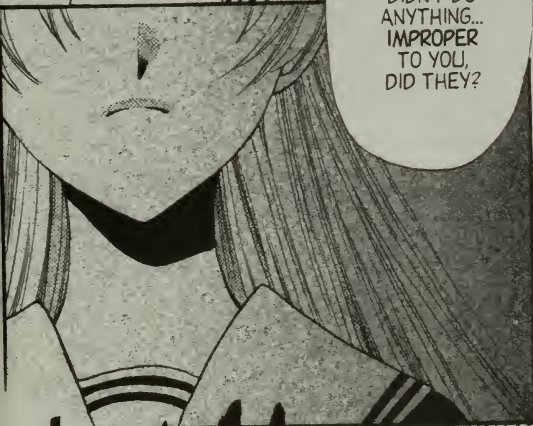


HEY,
TOHRU-
CHAN...

THOSE
MEN IN THAT
HOUSE...



THEY
DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING...
IMPROPER
TO YOU,
DID THEY?

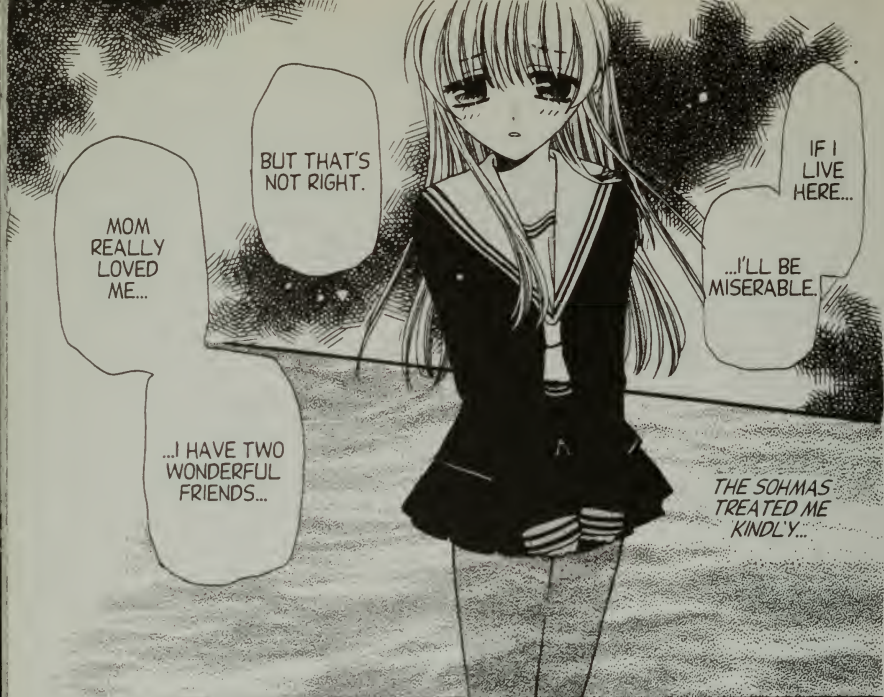


I THOUGHT
GOING TO A
DETECTIVE
MIGHT BE
A BIT
MUCH...

...BUT
KYOKO-SAN
WAS FAIRLY
ROUGH; AND
THEY SAY, "THE
FRUIT DOESN'T
FALL FAR
FROM THE
TREE."

SO I GOT
NERVOUS.

YOU HAVE
TO KEEP ON
THE STRAIGHT
AND NARROW
IF YOU PLAN
TO STAY IN
THIS HOUSE.



MOM
REALLY
LOVED
ME...

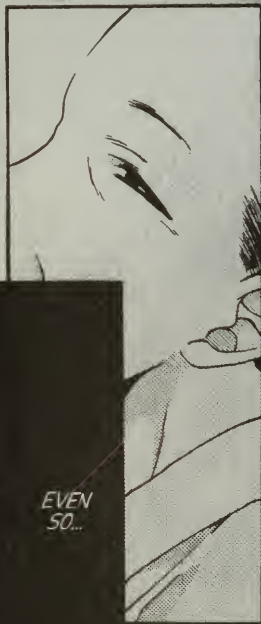
BUT THAT'S
NOT RIGHT.

IF I
LIVE
HERE...

...I'LL BE
MISERABLE.

...I HAVE TWO
WONDERFUL
FRIENDS...

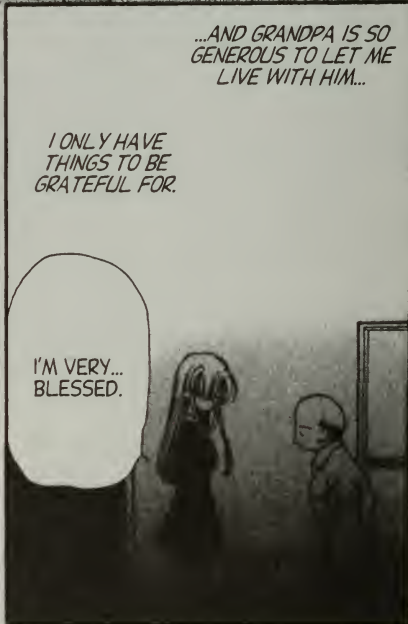
THE SOHMAS
TREATED ME
KINDLY...



EVEN
SO...



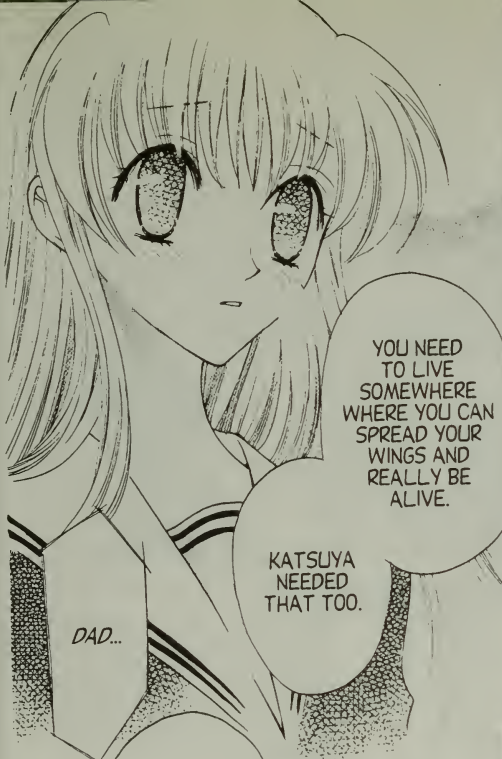
BUT...



...AND GRANDPA IS SO
GENEROUS TO LET ME
LIVE WITH HIM...

I ONLY HAVE
THINGS TO BE
GRATEFUL FOR.

I'M VERY...
BLESSED.



DAD...

YOU NEED
TO LIVE
SOMEWHERE
WHERE YOU CAN
SPREAD YOUR
WINGS AND
REALLY BE
ALIVE.

KATSUYA
NEEDED
THAT TOO.

YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO STAY
HERE, KYOKO-
SAN.

IF
THERE'S
SOMEPLACE
YOU'D
RATHER
BE, YOU
CAN GO.

I'M AN OLD
MAN. IF THEY
SAY MEAN
THINGS TO ME,
I CAN DEAL
WITH IT.

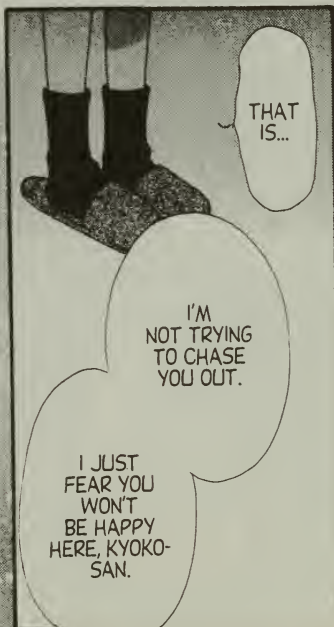
STILL,
THIS IS
WHERE
I NEED
TO BE.



BUT YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
STAY HERE.



THAT
IS...



I'M
NOT TRYING
TO CHASE
YOU OUT.

I JUST
FEAR YOU
WON'T
BE HAPPY
HERE, KYOKO-
SAN.

IS THAT
WRONG?

I WANTED
TO STAY...

...I HATED
TO LEAVE.

IS IT
PROOF...

I
WANT-
ED TO
STAY...

...THAT I'M
SPOILED?

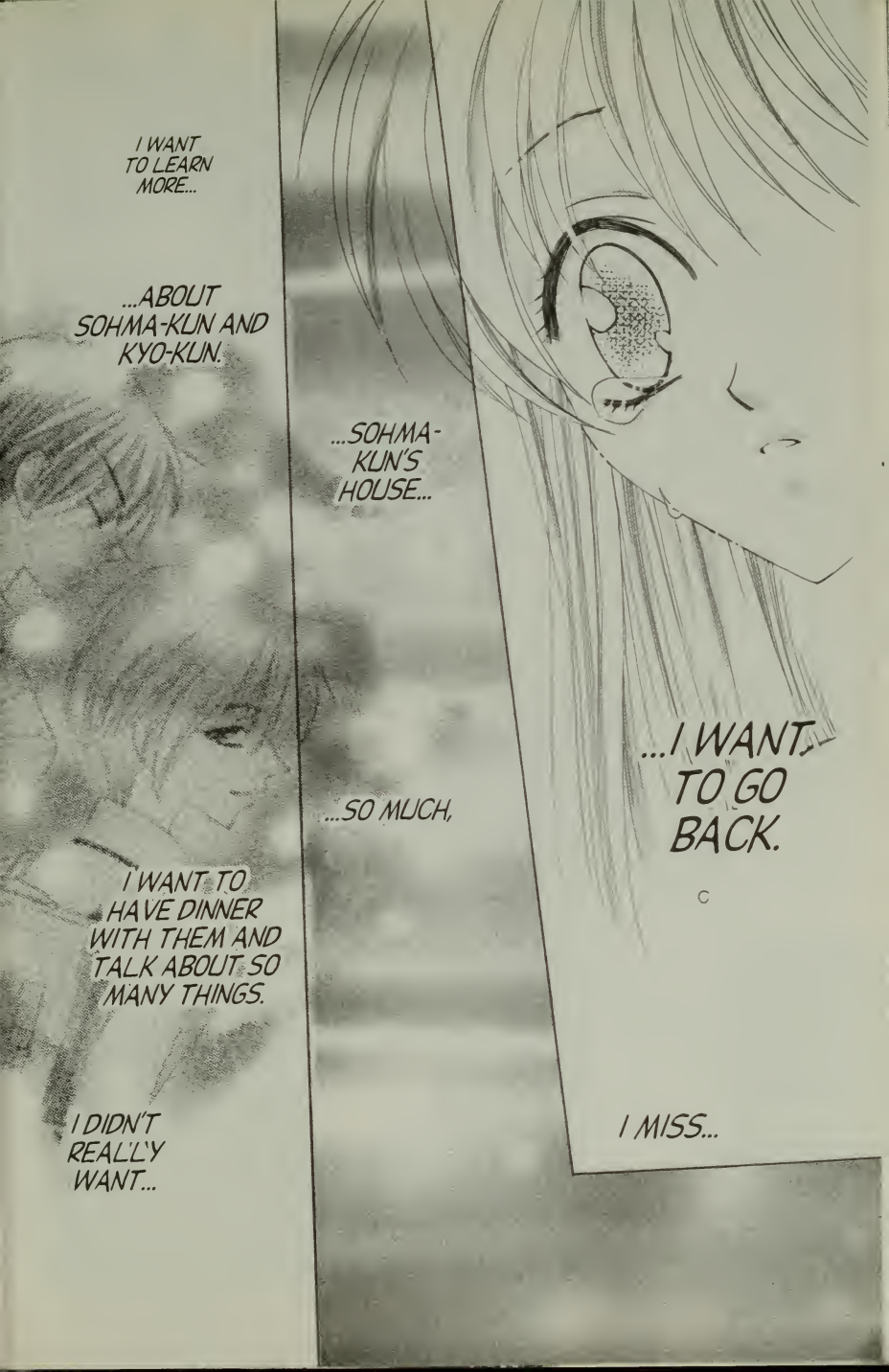
...WITH
SOHMA-
KUN...

...AND
KYO-
KUN...

...AND
SHIGURE-
SAN.

I THINK
IT'S
TIME
YOU...





I WANT
TO LEARN
MORE...

...ABOUT
SOHMA-KUN AND
KYO-KUN.

...SOHMA-
KUN'S
HOUSE...

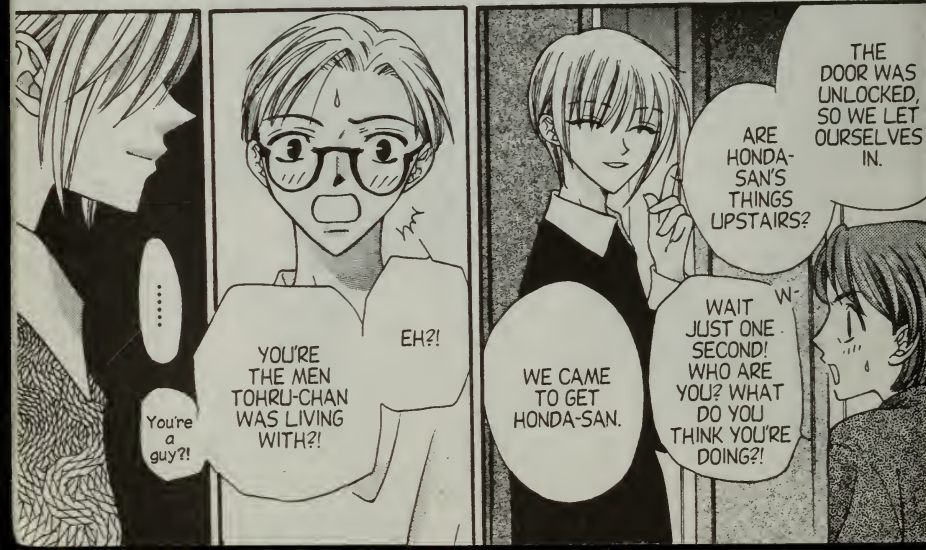
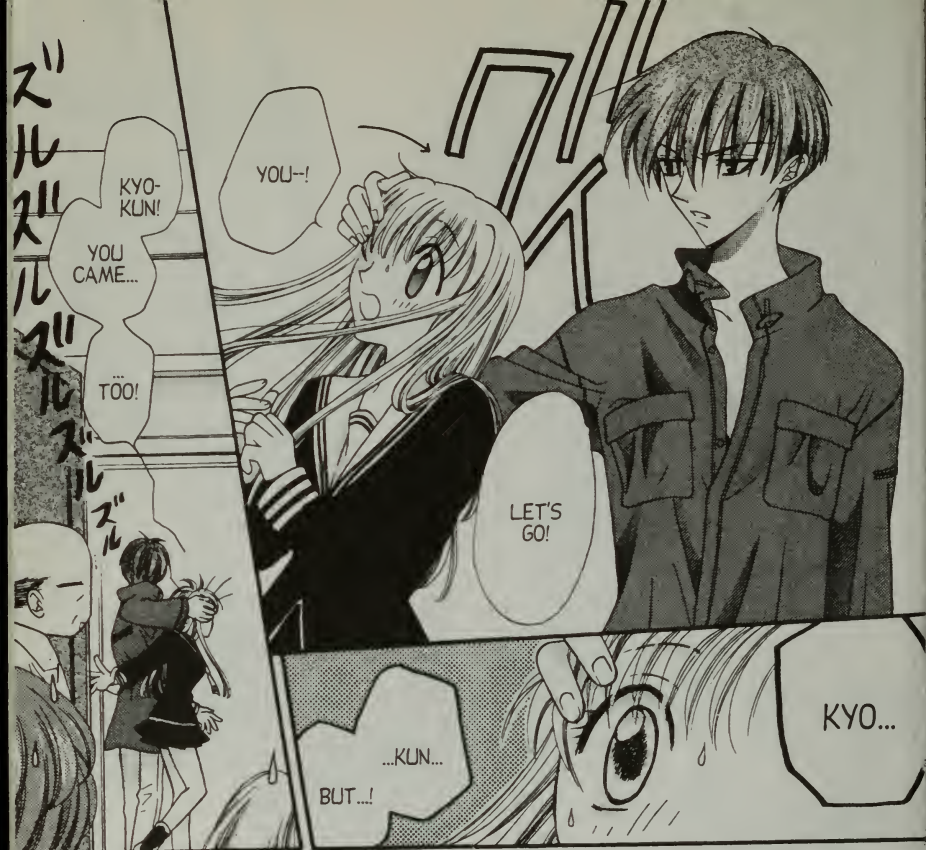
...SO MUCH,

I WANT TO
HAVE DINNER
WITH THEM AND
TALK ABOUT SO
MANY THINGS.

I DIDN'T
REALLY
WANT...

...I WANT
TO GO
BACK.

I MISS...





...CAME HOME.



WHO IS THAT?!

They're so cute!

EH?!



EVEN
THOUGH...

IT
DIDN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE,
SO I GOT
EVEN MORE
ANNOYED!

WHY DID
I GET ALL
IRRITATED
THE MOMENT
YOU LEFT?



I DON'T KNOW
WHY THE HELL
I'M DOING THIS.



ANYWAY...

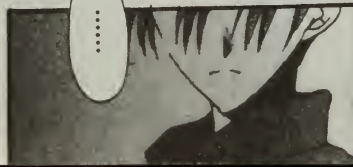
...TO
GET ME?

...THEY
FOUGHT...

...THEY
CAME...



I
HEARD
YOU.

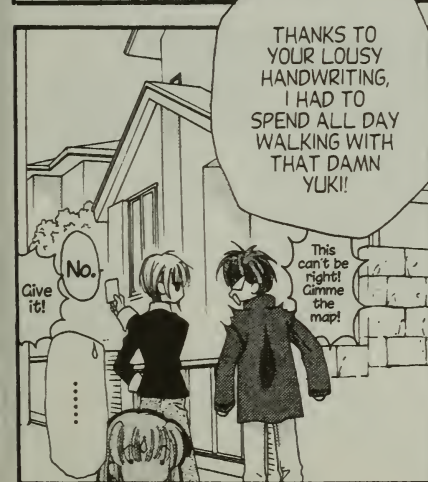
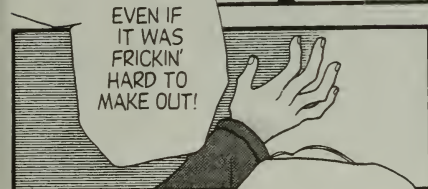


BUT--
HOW
DID
YOU--?

E
H?
?!

...YOU
SHOULD
HAVE SAID
SO IN THE
FIRST
PLACE!

IF YOU
REALLY
DIDN'T
WANT TO
LEAVE...





"IT'S
OKAY..."

"...TO LET
YOURSELF
BE SAD."



HEY!

WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING?!

WHAT
?!

WHAT'S
WRONG?!

...TO
GO BACK.

I DO
WANT
...

HIC.



IT'S
OKAY...

...TO
COMPLAIN...

...IT
WOULD
BE OKAY...

I
THOUGHT
THAT
YOU...

...WERE
ALL ABOUT
SAYING
WHAT YOU
FEEL.

...TO LET
YOURSELF
BE SAD.

...BUT
IN YOUR
CASE...

NORMALLY
I HATE
PEOPLE
WHO WHINE
ALL THE
TIME...

BE SELFISH...
SAY WHAT YOU
WANT... ONCE
IN A WHILE.

!





ONIGIRY!

THERE'S...

...HOME!

"IT'S
OKAY."

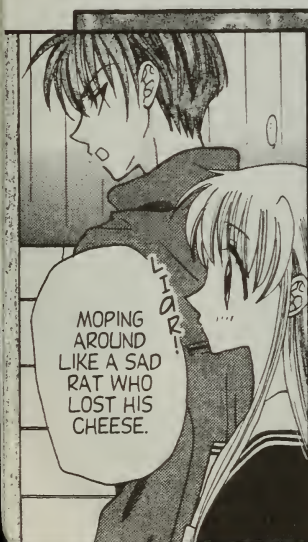
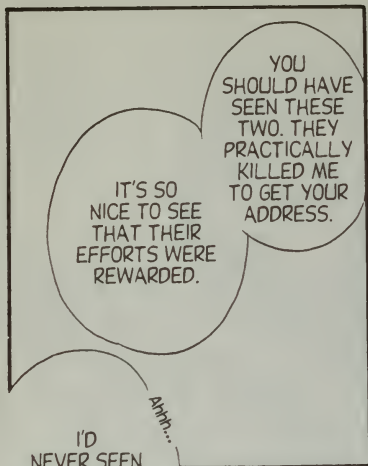
I WANT
TO GO
BACK...

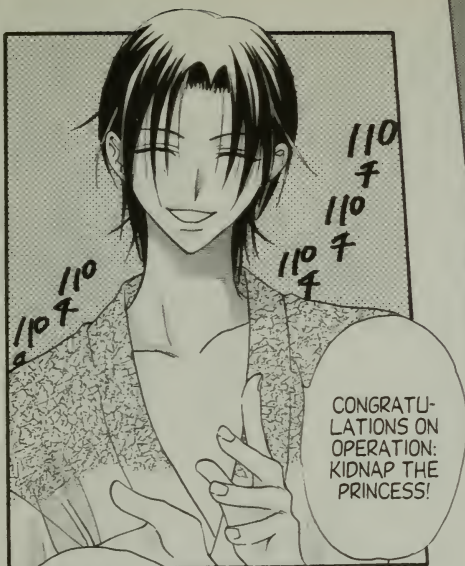
THEN
WE'RE
GOING
HOME
NOW!

*All
right
already!*

!

.....





CONGRATU-
LATIONS ON
OPERATION:
KIDNAP THE
PRINCESS!

YOU
MAKE IT
SOUND AS
IF WE DID
SOMETHING
WRONG.

AT LEAST
CALL IT A
RESCUE.

UM...

...I'M
BACK.
I HOPE
THAT'S
NOT A
PROBLEM.

THERE'S
NO ONE...

...AS LUCKY
AS ME.



TOUCHY

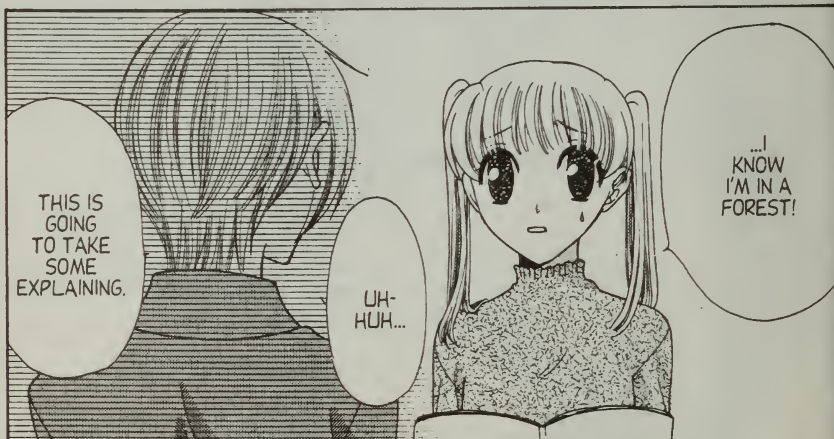
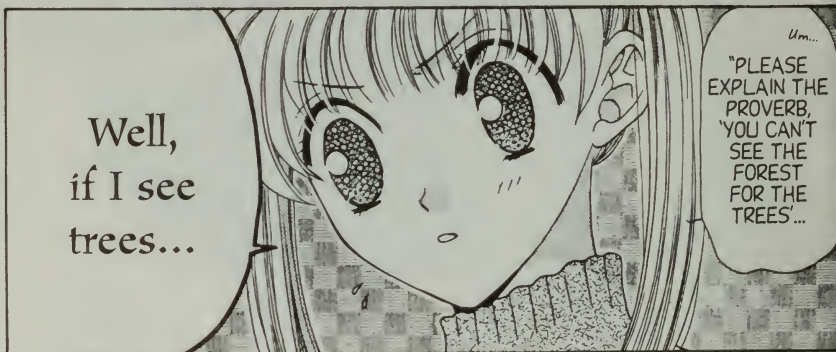
Your
nose is
running.

Heh.

Y
Y
Y

MOM.

Omaka Theater 4: This question isn't on the S.A.T....



Correct answer: Sometimes it's easier to understand a situation if you look at it from a distance.



YES!

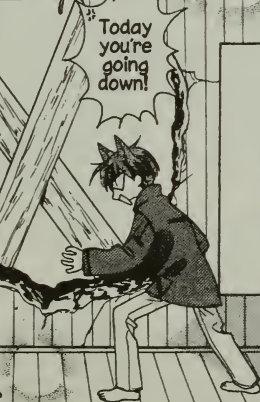


YOU WERE THE ONE MOPING.

I'M HOME.

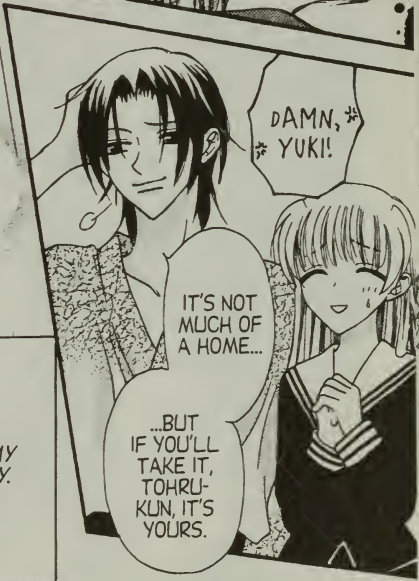


Oh, it's on now.



Today you're going down!

WITH MY FAMILY.



DAMN, YUKI!

IT'S NOT MUCH OF A HOME...
...BUT IF YOU'LL TAKE IT, TOHRU-KUN, IT'S YOURS.

To be continued in Volume 2...

Next time in...



Old Friends and New Family

The Sohma family is just starting to get used to life with Tohru, but can they survive a sleepover visit by her two best friends without their secret being exposed? Things aren't any easier at school where crowd-shy Kyo must deal with sudden popularity—and a surprise visit by two other members of the Sohma clan!

Fruits Basket Volume 2
Available Now



I feel so grateful...

See you
soon!

Thanks to Harada-sama,
Araki-sama, Mother, my
editor, and everyone who
reads and supports "Fruits
Basket."

Next time it'll be Yuki--

This is Natsuki Takaya,
signing off!

Fruits Basket's

The Chinese Zodiac - Part 1: History Lesson

Fables, myths, and legends abound in every culture of the world. Some of the most ancient of them stem from a basic need to place some type of meaning on those events that are out of our control. The exact origins of the Chinese Zodiac remain a mystery, but their influence is still being felt even today.

The Chinese once viewed time as a cyclical journey consisting of highs and lows that would eventually come full circle. This concept of time would become the basis for the Chinese Lunar Calendar, a 12-year calendar built around 60-year cycles that were delegated by the longitude of the sun and the phases of the moon.

The calendar itself dates back to around 2637 B.C. and consists of 10 Heavenly Steams (elements with yin and yang characteristics) and 12 Earthly Branches (animals of the zodiac) that are clumped together to become the name of the year. When the steams and branches, also known as "Jikkan Junishi," are combined in sequential order, they do not repeat until 60 years have passed. So in essence no one person will ever see any given year more than twice in their own lifetime.

Unfortunately, much of the population was illiterate and unable to fully grasp the complexity of the calendar so the 12 Earthly Branches came to be represented by animals so that everyone could remember them better. The version of the calendar that has been passed down also incorporates the five Chinese elements (Metal, Water, Wood, Fire, and Earth) into its design. The elements themselves each have a yin and yang variation, but the zodiac animals are always either yin or yang. For example, an odd year is yin and an even year is yang.

Japan was introduced to the Chinese calendar in approximately 604 A.D. during the reign of the Empress Suiko-Tenno, when she made an active attempt to spread the many wonders of Buddhism throughout the island nation. By this time though, the calendar was all ready being used for a number of things including telling the time of day through two-hour intervals and even pointing out cardinal directions.

As time went on, the animals became the core basis of Asian astrology, which dictates that one's personality can be divined from the year in which they were born. When combined with the elemental aspects of the calendar, Chinese astrology can even point out which partner will be more dominant in a relationship. Needless to say, the vast majority of the population does not take this seriously anymore.

Still, the Chinese Zodiac does have its uses in modern society. Instead of being rude and asking someone how old they are, one would instead ask what their animal where they born under. With a little math—just add or subtract 12—you'll have your answer. And let us not forget the Chinese New Year, which is celebrated every year in either late January or early February.

Cow

Years: 1961, 1973,
1985, 1997
Positive: inspiring,
conservative, natural
born leaders
Negative: stubborn,
unyielding personality



Tiger

Years: 1962, 1974,
1986, 1996
Positive: courageous,
unpredictable, loving
Negative: overly
aggressive, highly
emotional



Rabbit

Years: 1963, 1975,
1987, 1999
Positive:
affectionate,
pleasant, talented
Negative: too sen-
timental, avoids
conflict

Rat

Years: 1960, 1972,
1984, 1996
Positive:
imaginative,
ambitious,
generous to
loved ones
Negative:
hot-tempered





Boar

Years: 1971, 1983,
1995, 2007
Positive: reliable,
sincere, tolerant
Negative: shy, short
tempered



Dog

Years: 1970, 1982,
1994, 2006
Positive: honest,
generous, faithful
Negative: quiet,
cynical



Rooster

Years: 1969, 1981,
1993, 2005
Positive: courageous,
hardworking, skilled
Negative: arrogant,
selfish



Monkey

Years: 1968, 1980,
1992, 2004
Positive: inventive,
entertaining, magnetic
personality
Negative: distrusting,
untrusting

Dragon

Years: 1964, 1976,
1988, 2000
Positive: intelligent,
enthusiastic,
softhearted
Negative: bossy, loud



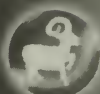
Snake

Years: 1965, 1977,
1989, 2001
Positive: romantic,
clever, beautiful
Negative: vain,
procrastinators



Sheep

Years: 1967, 1979,
1991, 2003
Positive: creative,
honest, passionate
Negative:
disorganized,
timid



Horse

Years: 1966, 1978,
1990, 2002
Positive: cunning,
adventurous,
cheerful
Negative:
impatient, selfish

TP: How is acting for anime different from other acting jobs you do?

LB: Well I can look like sin for one thing. I love that. And anime is the only thing I do in which I act after the fact. Dubbing is a craft unto itself; it takes a completely different approach. You don't always get to decide how you want to say a line, because your way doesn't work with the timing. Anime means taking something very specific, and making it work for you.

TP: Do you have a favorite anime or manga series?

LB: I feel like a cheese for saying so, but Fruits Basket is my favorite. When I found out you guys were releasing the manga in English, I was ecstatic.

TP: What's your zodiac animal? Are you happy being that animal or would you rather be something else?

LB: I'm a cock. I wouldn't change that either; just 'cause it's fun to say, "I'm a cock."

TP: Okay, I have to ask... If you were in Tohru's shoes and you had to pick one guy, who would you choose Kyo or Yuki?

LB: I don't know ... I've tried to make that choice about a thousand times. At first I thought Kyo because, c'mon, he's awesome. He's got the whole bad boy thing working for him; but then I think about Yuki, and how much he truly cares about Tohru and how wonderful a person he is ... and I'm back at square one. It's an endless circle.

TP: Tohru is a very emotional character who is often moved to tears of joy or sadness. Was it difficult to bring out her emotions out in your performance?

LB: It wasn't so much difficult as it was draining. In the last few episodes especially, Tohru goes through a lot of extreme emotions. Those days of recording were the hardest. The emotion you feel as the character attaches itself to you, so I left the booth very depressed and frustrated.

TP: What was it like working with the other members of the Fruits Basket cast? What was your involvement with the other actors?

LB: Justin did a great job of casting the show. When listening to the final product, I kept wishing that I had been able to be involved with their recording sessions as well. Luckily, I'm friends with a lot of the cast, so I could still tell them how much I enjoyed what they did.

TP: How did you feel when the series was over?

LB: I was so upset. I loved working on Fruits Basket; there's no doubt that I would jump at the chance to continue it.

TP: What was your first voice acting role for anime?

LB: The first thing I did was kid Dende on Dragonball Z. I was filling in for the woman who originally did that voice, as she wasn't available. It turns out, though, she came back to the studio after me, and rerecorded everything I'd done. Which really sucked, let me tell you. Soon after, though, I was cast as kid Trunks. So I guess it was all for the best in the end.

TP: Is there a favorite anime role that you've performed?

LB: Tohru. I just loved everything about her.

TP: What was the most challenging role you've ever played?

LB: That's a tough question. Either Tohru or Marlene in Blue Gender. Both had some intense moments throughout their series.

Images © 2003 Natsuki Takaya/HAKUSENSHA-TV
TOKYO-NAS-Fruba Project. Licensed by FUNimation®
Productions, Ltd. All Rights Reserved.



A conversation with Laura Bailey. the English voice of Tohru Honda

You genuinely care about every storyline.

TP: How did you prepare for the role of Tohru Honda? How was this character different from other anime characters that you've played?

LB: In preparing for the part, I researched the series on the Internet and watched the Japanese version. Tohru was the first innocent character I'd played. The more I researched, the more I fell in love with that innocence.

TP: How does the original Japanese performance influence your own interpretation of a character?

LB: Well, it helped me form a basis for Tohru's mannerisms and inflections. I think when the original is so wonderful, you don't want to stray from that. Why mess with a good thing, y'know?

TP: Many of Tohru's humble behaviors and speech patterns must have been very difficult to translate to English. What did you find most challenging about capturing her character in your performance?

LB: Actually, I was asked a similar question by Mr. Daichi (Japanese director) himself, during a panel discussion. He wanted to make sure that her sweetness and formal nature didn't get lost in the translation. I think that, while we in America don't have that same speech formality, the humble nature can still be communicated through inflections and tone. I guess the challenging part was just making sure to always use those softer inflections.

TP: What about Tohru's character do you most relate to? What do you find difficult to relate to?

LB: Her desire to turn any situation into a positive one—that's what I most connected with. Not to say that I always succeed ... but I certainly try to remain optimistic. I think it was her formal nature that I found most difficult. Luckily, John Burgmeier did a wonderful job with the dialogue, which made things easier.

TOKYOPOP: Could you briefly explain the process of voice acting for Fruits Basket?

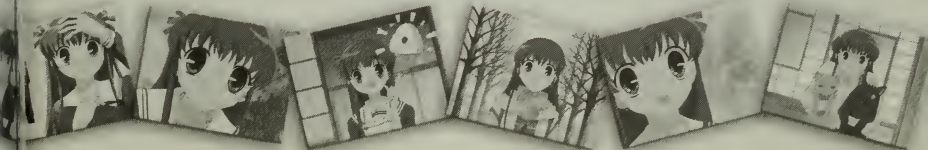
Laura Bailey: I, as an actress, become involved after the translated script has been completed and the director has an idea of what he wants from the episode. Justin Cook, my voice director on Fruits Basket, usually has pretty specific ideas and is great about filling me in on what's happening throughout the show. He'll give me the background of other characters and help me decide where Tohru is coming from during her interaction with others. That's especially helpful when I'm the first actor to record on an episode. All actors record separately due to the difficulty of ADR; but I always prefer to be the last to record so that I can have Justin play the other actors in my headphones when I go in. It's easier to be believable when you know what you're reacting to. One of the great things about Tohru was, though she had a lot of dialogue, most of it was spoken off screen. That helped to speed up recording because I didn't have to match mouth flaps and could use the timing that I wanted to. Often, on the narration, I could get through it in one take.

TP: When you first became involved with Fruits Basket, were you aware of the huge international following that the series has? What is it about Fruits Basket, do you think, that makes it such a fan favorite series with many viewers and readers outside of the usual shojo market?

LB: I had no idea Fruits Basket had the following it did, but I could tell from the first episode I watched that it wasn't an average series. I think what makes Fruits Basket so special is the depth of all the characters.



Laura Bailey



TOKYOPOP

BRIGADOON

BY SUNRISE: The Creator of Gundam and Cowboy Bebop



TWO UNLIKELY ALLIES IN ONE AMAZING ANIME.

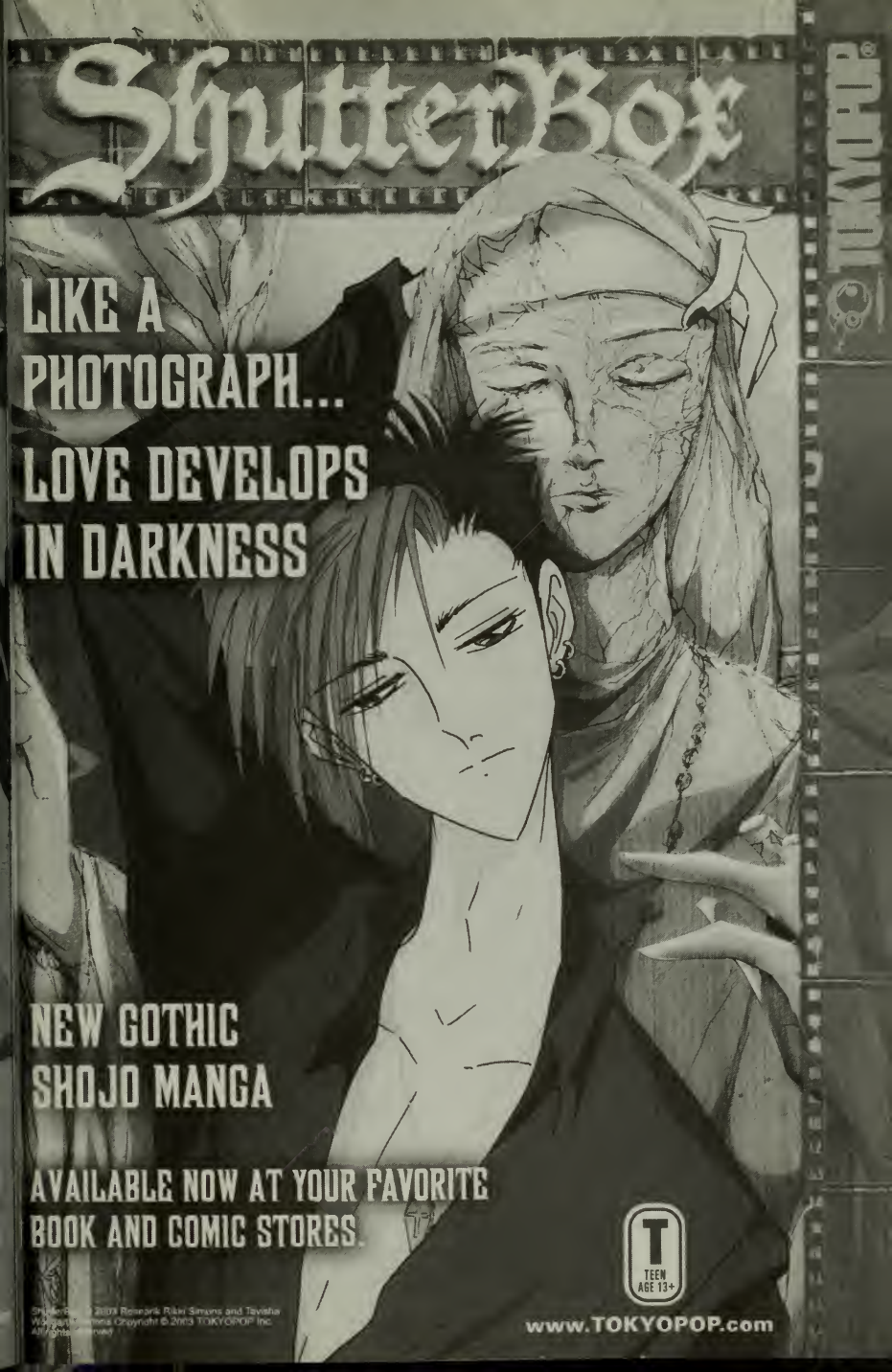
DVD Available Everywhere Great Anime Is Sold!

© SUNRISE • WOWOW This product is manufactured and distributed by TOKYOPOP®
under license by Sunrise, Inc. © 2003 TOKYOPOP, Inc.



www.TOKYOPOP.com

ShutterBox



LIKE A
PHOTOGRAPH...
LOVE DEVELOPS
IN DARKNESS

NEW GOTHIC
SHOJO MANGA

AVAILABLE NOW AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOK AND COMIC STORES.



ShutterBox © 2003 Rosebank Riski Simons and Tavisia
Wright. All Rights Reserved. Copyright © 2003 TOKYOPOP Inc.
All rights reserved.

www.TOKYOPOP.com

MANGA

.HACK//LEGEND OF THE TWILIGHT

@LARGE

A.I. LOVE YOU

AI YORI AOSHI

ANGELIC LAYER

ARM OF KANNON May 2004

BABY BIRTH

BATTLE ROYALE

BATTLE VIXENS April 2004

BRAIN POWERED

BRIGADOON

B'TX

CANDIDATE FOR GODDESS, THE April 2004

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA - MASTER OF THE CLOW

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA AUTHENTIC May 2004

CHOBITS

CHRONICLES OF THE CURSED SWORD

CLAMP SCHOOL DETECTIVES

CLOVER

COMIC PARTY June 2004

CONFIDENTIAL CONFESSIONS

CORRECTOR YUI

COWBOY BEBOP

COWBOY BEBOP: SHOOTING STAR

CRESCENT MOON May 2004

CYBORG 009

DEMON DIARY

DEMON ORORON, THE April 2004

DEUS VITAE June 2004

DIGIMON

DIGIMON ZERO TWO

DIGIMON SERIES 3 April 2004

DNANGEL April 2004

DOLL - HARDCOVER May 2004

DRAGON HUNTER

DRAGON KNIGHTS

DUKLYON: CLAMP SCHOOL DEFENDERS

ERICA SAKURAZAWA WORKS

FAERIES' LANDING

FAKE

FLCL

FORBIDDEN DANCE

FRUITS BASKET

G GUNDAM

GATE KEEPERS

GETBACKERS

GHOST! March 2004

GIRL GOT GAME

GRAVITATION

GTO

GUNDAM WING

GUNDAM WING: BATTLEFIELD OF PACIFISTS

GUNDAM WING: ENDLESS WALTZ

GUNDAM WING: THE LAST OUTPOST (G-UNIT)

HAPPY MANIA

HARLEM BEAT

I.N.V.U.

IMMORTAL RAIN June 2004

INITIAL D

ISLAND

JING: KING OF BANDITS

JULINE

JUROR 13 Coming Soon

KARE KANO

KILL ME, KISS ME

KINDAICHI CASE FILES, THE

KING OF HELL

KODOCHA: SANA'S STAGE

LAMENT OF THE LAMB May 2004

LES BIJOUX

LOVE HINA

LUPIN III

MAGIC KNIGHT RAYEARTH I

MAGIC KNIGHT RAYEARTH II

MAHOROMATIC: AUTOMATIC MAIDEN May 2004

MAN OF MANY FACES

MARMALADE BOY

MARS

MINK April 2004

MIRACLE GIRLS

MIYUKI-CHAN IN WONDERLAND

MODEL May 2004

ONE April 2004
PARADISE KISS
PARASYTE
PEACH GIRL
PEACH GIRL: CHANGE OF HEART

PEACH GIRL: AUTHENTIC COLLECTORS BOX SET May 2004

PET SHOP OF HORRORS
PITA-TEN
PLANET LADDER
PLANETES
PRIEST
PSYCHIC ACADEMY March 2004
RAGNAROK
RAVE MASTER
REALITY CHECK
REBIRTH
REBOUND
REMOTE June 2004
RISING STARS OF MANGA
SABER MARIONETTE J
SAILOR MOON
SAINT TAIL
SAIYUKI March 2004
SAMURAI DEEPER KYO
SAMURAI GIRL REAL BOUT HIGH SCHOOL

NOVELS

KARMA CLUB Coming Soon
SAILOR MOON

ART BOOKS

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA
MAGIC KNIGHT RAYEARTH
PEACH GIRL ART BOOK April 2004

ANIME GUIDES

COWBOY BEBOP ANIME GUIDES
GUNDAM TECHNICAL MANUALS
SAILOR MOON SCOUT GUIDES

TOKYOPOP KIDS

STRAY SHEEP

CINE-MANGA™

CARDCAPTORS
FAIRLY ODDPARENTS March 2004
FINDING NEMO
G.I. JOE SPY TROOPS
JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES
JIMMY NEUTRON BOY GENIUS, THE ADVENTURES OF
KIM POSSIBLE
LIZZIE MCGUIRE
POWER RANGERS: NINJA STORM
SHREK Coming Soon
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
SPY KIDS 2
SPY KIDS 3-D Game Over March 2004
TRANSFORMERS: ARMADA
TRANSFORMERS: ENERGON May 2004



**For more
information visit
www.TOKYOPOP.com**



You

This book
format
get to
asking
and far

8

10

STOP!

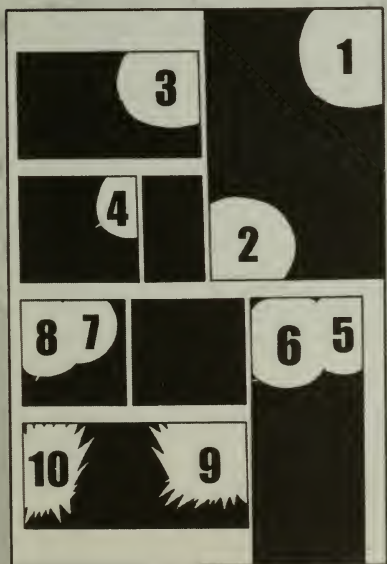
**This is the back of the book.
You wouldn't want to spoil a great ending!**

This book is printed "manga-style," in the authentic Japanese right-to-left format. Since none of the artwork has been flipped or altered, readers get to experience the story just as the creator intended. You've been asking for it, so TOKYOPOP® delivered: authentic, hot-off-the-press, and far more fun!

DIRECTIONS

If this is your first time reading manga-style, here's a quick guide to help you understand how it works.

It's easy... just start in the top right panel and follow the numbers. Have fun, and look for more 100% authentic manga from TOKYOPOP®!



Manga
Romance/Comedy

US \$9.99

CAN \$13.99

Fruits Basket™

**A family with an ancient curse...
And the girl who will change their lives forever...**

Tohru Honda was an orphan with no place to go until the mysterious Sohma family offered her a place to call home. Now her ordinary high school life is turned upside down as she's introduced to the Sohma's world of magical curses and family secrets. Discover for yourself the Secret of the Zodiac, and find out why Fruits Basket has won the hearts of readers the world over!

ISBN 1591826039



6 45573 00999



1



www.TOKYOPOP.com